

# The Quiver

## Michigan United Conservation Clubs Region 7 Monthly Newsletter

June 2024 Vol. 35

### For Over 75 Years Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) Hosts Youth Camp Experience

By [Elyse Kopietz](#) May 30, 2024

[Chelsea, Michigan] – May 30, 2024 – For over 75 years, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has been at the forefront of offering Michigan youth an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in the wonders of the great outdoors. MUCC proudly announces its annual Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp, with seven week-long summer adventures designed to cultivate a deep appreciation for nature among children aged 9-16.

Nestled in the heart of Michigan's natural beauty, MUCC's Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp takes place at the scenic Cedar Lake Outdoor Center near Chelsea in southeast Michigan. This idyllic location serves as the perfect backdrop for a transformative outdoor experience.

"At MUCC, we believe in instilling a love for nature in Michigan's youth," said Shannon Stover, Camp Director & Educator at MUCC. "Our Youth Camp is more than just a summer getaway; it's an opportunity for children to connect with the environment, learn essential conservation values, and forge lifelong memories."

The MUCC Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp residential program, spanning six days and five nights, offers a comprehensive array of outdoor activities tailored to engage and educate young campers. MUCC also offers two weeks of day camp opportunities for ages 6 and up. Since its inception in 1946, MUCC has proudly welcomed more than 59,000 children to its Youth Camp, providing them with hands-on experiences that foster a deep understanding of conservation principles and the natural world.

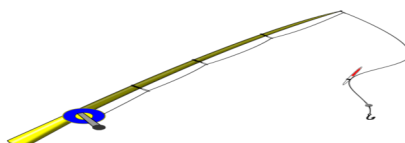
Campers at the MUCC Youth Camp will have the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of activities, including fishing, canoeing, swimming, hiking, forestry, wildlife identification, archery, and more. Moreover, the camp curriculum emphasizes safety and education, with campers learning basic firearms safety, earning hunter education certificates, and gaining insight into the importance of sound conservation practices.

"MUCC's Youth Camp offers children the chance to explore, discover, and learn in an environment that celebrates Michigan's rich outdoor heritage," added Stover. "Through experiential learning and guided exploration, we aim to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders who will steward our precious natural resources for years to come."

Registration for the 2024 MUCC Youth Camp is now open. Families interested in providing their children with this unforgettable outdoor experience are encouraged to visit the MUCC website at [mucc.org/youth-camp](http://mucc.org/youth-camp) or [mucccamp.org](http://mucccamp.org) for more information and to secure their spot.



Photo Compliments of MUCC



**Donate to MUCC and have fun at the same time.**



**WEST SIDE Charity Shoot Supporting MUCC Mission**

**When: Friday, June 21, 2024**

**Where: North Ottawa Rod & Gun Club, Grand Haven**

The MUCC West Side Charity Shoot is a fun way to support conservation and get outside to enjoy West Michigan. Get your team of six registered today! Sponsorship opportunities are available as well. Click [here](#) for registration form and info and sponsorship opportunities on East and West side charity shoots.

East side Charity Shoot Supporting Michigan-Out-of - Doors Youth Camp  
When: Friday, Aug. 9, 2024  
Where: Multi-Lakes Conservation Assoc., Commerce Twp

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Nearly three-fourths of America's remaining wetlands are on private lands. Some of the most valuable wildlife habitat is threatened by development**

**Tracks Facts**

**The Presence of Fairy Shrimp is a sign of a healthy ecosystem, as it is considered an indicator species. Their habitat exists solely in freshwater vernal pools.**

# The Michigan Bald Eagle Observation Survey

By: Sarah Scheitz May 9, 2024

Many people who spend time in Michigan's outdoors come across a bald eagle nest or see an eagle fly over. Some might even go back to that location regularly to check on the success of the eagle nest. Bald eagles are an important bird species and are a symbol of our nation. The recovery of the bald eagle is one of the greatest conservation success stories. Researchers need help from MUCC members to gain insight on bald eagle populations in Michigan from 2021-2023. Read on to learn more about why MUCC members are being asked to help and how.



Photo Compliments of  
Sarah Scheitz

Click [HERE](#) for the survey link.

## Background

Dr. Bill Bowerman, a professor from the University of Maryland, has been studying the bald eagle population in Michigan for 40 years. During this time period, Michigan's eagle population has grown from 140 breeding pairs to a high of 1,000 pairs in 2022. Aerial surveys were conducted from 1961 to 2018 across the entire state. These surveys contributed to one of the largest and most important population studies in the world. Due to a stable population, the intensity of aerial surveys decreased. Only about 1/3 of the state is now flown (lower half of the Lower Peninsula).

Unfortunately, right after the breeding season began in 2022, eagles experienced a new threat – highly pathogenic avian influenza (bird flu). This disease increased adult mortality, reduced nesting success, and has left many bald eagle nests in Michigan vacant. Researchers know that it significantly impacted population levels of nesting eagles, but they do not know to what extent since aerial surveys are not conducted statewide.

## How to Get Involved

This is where MUCC members come in. Many of you spend time in the woods, on lakes, and along Michigan's rivers and likely know where eagle nests are in your favorite places. Researchers from the University of Maryland have asked for your help to fill the data gaps in areas they do not survey by aircraft to help determine the impact of this disease. Any eagle nest observations made between January 1 and July 4 for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 can be entered. Your input is invaluable, and your responses will make an important contribution to understanding and protecting Michigan's bald eagle population. This is one small step that you as an MUCC member can take to accomplish our mission to conserve and protect Michigan's natural resources. To fill out the survey, click [HERE](#) or copy and past the link below:

[https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV\\_8poKUez0tTfv1JA](https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_8poKUez0tTfv1JA)

The Michigan Bald Eagle Observation survey is being conducted by Dr. Jen Shaffer at the University of Maryland, College Park. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Shaffer by email at [irb@umd.edu](mailto:irb@umd.edu) or phone at 301-405-0678.



**The next NRC meeting is Thursday, June 13th 2024 at  
Lansing Community College West Campus.  
Watch committee as whole live on MUCC's Facebook page.**

## May 2024 NRC Recap

By: [Justin Tomei](#) May 9, 2024

Former Commissioner Carol Rose was recognized for her service to the commission at the May Natural Resource Commission (NRC) meeting today.

Commissioner Rose served on the commission from 2020-2023, including serving as chair for a portion of her term.

Other highlights of the Director's report featured a presentation from Brian Frawley on the [2023 Deer Harvest Report Summary](#), a presentation on [Cormorant Control](#), and a presentation from Chad Stewart on the [Deer Management Initiative](#).

The commission had one order up for action. [Wildlife Conservation Order #4 of 2024](#) sets falconry regulations for the next regulatory cycle. The order passed unanimously.

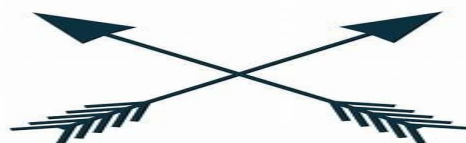
The Director had no items up for action, and one for information. [Land Use Order of the Director #3 of 2024](#) prohibits dispersed camping at Stoddard's Landing due to non-compliance with the specific rules of that natural river area.

Before the committee of the whole, the fisheries committee saw a trio of presentations. The first from MUCC contract employee Bob Stuber of the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition, the second on the Boardman Ottaway River Reborn, a presentation on the dam removal effort in Michigan, and closing thoughts from Fisheries Division Chief Randy Claramunt.

There were five land transactions up for director action. MUCC reviews all transactions exceeding 80 acres, of which there were two. [Land Transaction Case #20230174](#) is an acquisition of 160 acres in Grand Traverse County. [Land Transaction Case #20230226](#) is an acquisition of 197 acres in Lenawee County.

The next NRC meeting returns to Lansing on June 13 at Lansing Community College West Campus.

To ensure our natural resources remain protected and managed thoughtfully and our outdoor heritage defended, join Michigan United Conservation Clubs today: <http://bit.ly/JoinMUCC>.



## Communicating

Did you know when you receive an Email, Text or message on Facebook, Instagram or “X” that there is no communication happening. ? A message without a response is called Broadcasting. Only when the receiver answers is there communication taking place. The response could be as simple as “Got It” or a “Thumbs Up” sign or an email back in kind. There are so many ways to communicate these day but are you doing your part in the process? What is your preference in communicating? Drop me a note or call me, text me and let me know



**rhbhunt3@gmail.com 259-209-1770**

**Saturday, July 13, 2024 - Annual Manistee River  
Clean-up - (Registration opens June 1)**

**Email: [sscheitz@mucc.org](mailto:sscheitz@mucc.org)**

### A few Turkey Hunting Safety Tips

- ◆ **Absolutely, positively identify your target.**
- ◆ **99% of hunters who are shot while calling are making the call of a hen turkey.**
- ◆ **Never assume that you are the only person in the woods. Even if its your woods.**
- ◆ **Don't approach questionable calling. It might be a human**
- ◆ **Don't wear colors red, white or blue. These are colors on a gobblers head.**
- ◆ **Absolutely positively do not wave at another hunter. In a clear voice let them know that you are there also. Any movement might be mistaken for a turkey**





**MUCC President Rob Miller (left) attended one of the newest Region 7 Clubs meeting, All Species Conservation Club. Here he is pictured with Greg Peck its President. All Species Conservation Club home base is Kalamazoo and their meetings are held at “Travelers Pub” monthly. I have attended several of their meetings and have learned more about fishing than I didn't know I didn't know. Great group of folks and you cant beat the fried perch the Pub serves.**



## **June 1st Policy Board Meeting at Cadillac Sportsman Club**

**A quorum of dedicated travelers meet at the [Cadillac Sportsman’s Club](#) on Sat. June 1st for our Conservation Policy Board meeting. 2 resolutions were discussed one was withdrawn by the author and one was sent back to the author and a request for author to be present to answer questions about the resolution at our next Policy Board meeting.**

**Our guest speaker was Kris Day Hatchery Manager of the Little Travers Band of Odawa Indians. His presentation was about Sturgeon Management. Kris’s knowledge on sturgeon was amazing and centered on the unique life cycle of sturgeon and what the tribe is doing to bring it back to its once harvestable numbers. Lots of great info. A special Thanks to Jane Finnerty and the Cadillac Club for hosting and feeding us.**

# MUCC Testifies on Bill to Expand Mentored Hunt Program to Include Individuals with Special Needs

By [Elyse Kopietz](#) May 23, 2024

Lansing, MI — May 23, 2024 — This morning, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Michigan's leading conservation organization, testified in committee on priority legislation expanding hunting opportunities for individuals with special needs.

House Bill 5737, sponsored by Rep. Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) with bipartisan support expands Michigan's successful mentored youth hunting program to include children and adults with special needs, that are incapable of passing a written hunters safety test but can perform hunting tasks under the direct supervision of a hunting mentor.

The hearing on HB 5737 was held in the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation, chaired by Speaker Pro Tempore Laurie Pohutsky (D-Livonia), a cosponsor of the legislation. Rep. Pohutsky promptly scheduled a hearing on the bill after its introduction on Wednesday.

The committee reported the bill, with the recommendation that it pass, on a unanimous vote.

MUCC's support for this legislation comes from a grassroots member policy passed at its 2023 Annual Convention. The policy resolution, authored by MUCC member Mike Thorman, was born at a club banquet from a mother telling her and her son's story.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also testified in support of the legislation.

This legislation will not affect a large swath of Michigan's hunters but will mean the world to those that it does, said Justin Tomei, MUCC's Policy and Government Affairs Manager.

"Often, we work on regulations or laws affecting hundreds of thousands of Michigan's hunters, anglers, and trappers. This legislation is vastly different in terms of scope," said Tomei. "To those hunters who will soon be able to pursue their outdoor dreams, and to their families, this legislation means everything."

If the legislation is adopted before the legislature leaves for summer break the DNR is hopeful they can implement the program in time for the 2024 deer season.

The next step for the legislation is a vote by the entire House of Representatives, before moving to the Senate for consideration.

To learn more about MUCC and its other legislative priorities visit [MUCC.org](http://MUCC.org)

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

**Grand Valley Cap & Ballers** : Sporting Clays (modern shotguns) June 15, ([July 20,21 MUCC Region 7 Shoot Out fundraiser](#)). Sept.21, Oct. 12.. Sept. 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**: Tue. Evening Trap and Skeet Open to Public 5-9pm & Sat. 12-5pm \$5 per round. Pancake breakfast continues on 2nd Sunday of the month followed by a Calcutta

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

**Hillsdale County Conservation Club**: Monthly 30 3-D target shoots. All shoots run from 9am-1pm. June 25, July 23, Aug 26+27, Sept 17 Open to Public \$5 per person. Youth Archery every Sunday from 5pm=7pm

**New Buffalo Rod and Gun Club**: June 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 June 14th 4:30-7pm , June 9th 3-D Archery 8-12pm June 21-23rd Traditional Bow Shoot \$10 for Adults 16 and under Free.

**Bend of the River Conservation Club**: June Every Monday and Wed . in 8-5 pm 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 / Archery Shoot Sundays in July, Aug, Sept. 8-1pm

**Edwardsburg Conservation Club** : Year round Trap shooting event Games on Saturdays 10-1PM. . 3D Archery 8am-2pm \$12 member \$15 Non Members June, 2nd. July 7th Aug. 4th Sept. 8th/ June 23, Muzzle Loader Shoot 10-4pm

**Hamilton Rod and Gun** Trap Shoots starts every wed, 6:30 May, June, July, August. Fri. May 10th Calcutta Protection 5:30 Draw for Calcutta is 7:00 food available. May 11th Sporting goods swap meet 9-2 Lunch available for purchase

**Jackson County Outdoor Club**: Trap shooting Wednesday night at 5PM through October.

**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. Trap games and Calcutta starting at 5pm on the first Friday of each month from April to October. 8484 Greenfield Highway, Bellevue, Michigan 49021.

**St. Jo Conservation Club**. CPL Class Sat. May 11 13th . 9AM–6PM. Tue. All month 5:30 youth trap practice 6 pm, Sundays Trap and Skeet 9-12pm 3-D Archery is open. Tue. Eve. Shoots 5:30 \$5 members \$10 non-members. Members self serve still open 7 day per week. CPL class June 8th 9am -6PM

**All Species Conservation Club** Summer Bluegill tournament Series. 2nd Tue of the month through Sept. Call Greg Peck for details 269-998-9407

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



Camo for Conservation Fundraiser was a GREAT Success.

Over \$60,000 raised for MUCC

Find your elected State Representatives

[HERE](#)

Next Region 7 Event

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

What's Cooking ?

### Smoked Barbecue Salmon with Apples

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

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

8 Ounces boneless, skinless fillet, per person  
2 Cooking apples, pureed in processor  
2 Ounces of apple schnapps  
1/2 small jar apple jelly  
1 Cup barbecue, store broth or homemade.  
Squeeze of lemon  
Cayenne pepper to taste  
\*Barbecue grill, on low heat 2-  
3 cups apple smoking chips, soaked 1-2 hr. in  
water

Mix all ingredients, except smoking chips, together the day before. In glass dish, spoon a small amount of sauce in bottom. Lay fish in dish and top with more sauce. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight, turning fish 1-2 times and spoon sauce over top again. Wire brush the grate very clean. Season BBQ grates. Put the smoking chips around the outside of the coals, away from fish. In case they dry out and catch fire, it will not ruin the fish. Add more chip if smoke dies down. Place fillet skins side up, so when you turn them the rib side is up, it looks more appealing when served. Depending how hot the grill is, turn after 6-8 minutes. Baste fish with sauce several times while grilling. Cook only until fish is done. Salmon and some other fish are best when cooked just medium well. If you like, heat any remaining sauce and make a small pool on each plate and set the fish on sauce. Top with sprinkle of fresh chopped parsley. ENJOY



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