



The Quiver

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Region 7 Monthly Newsletter

March 2025 Vol. 44

2025 Annual MUCC Events

Camo & Conservation

Friday, April 12, 2025 - Byron Center, MI

Outdoor and Cold Pours

Saturday, May 17, 2025 - Metamora, MI

MUCC Westside Charity

Friday, June 13, 2025

Region 7 MUCC Fundraiser

July 19-20 Grand Valley Cap & Ballers Hopkins Mi.

Mike Avery Annual Charity Golf Outing

Friday, July 25, 2025 - West Branch, MI

Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp Charity Shoot

Friday, August 8, 2025 - Commerce Township, MI

Rooster Ranch Bonanza

Friday, September 26, 2025 - Ubly, MI

February NRC Recap

By Justin Tomei • February 13, 2025

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) met today at the Michigan Library and Historical center.

Bear regulations were up for information for the NRC. [Wildlife Conservation Order #2 of 2025](#) proposes a number of changes to bear regulations.

For more information on the order check out [MUCC's NRC Preview](#).

A number of regulatory issues considered by the department and the bear forum are also mentioned in the memo, with no amendment proposed.

Also, up for information was [Wildlife Conservation Order #1 of 2025](#) which allows for hunting to continue on the newly acquired Gete Mino Mshkiigan property, under state park land rules.

Both WCO amendments are eligible for action at the March meeting.

The director had four orders up for action. To learn more about these orders, read our [January NRC preview](#).

There were two land transactions on the agenda, MUCC reviews all transactions exceeding 80 acres, which both orders do.

[Land Transaction Case #20240089](#) is a sale of 350 acres of surplus land in Crawford County for the Saab munitions plant.

[Land Transaction Case #20240082](#) is an 80 acre acquisition in Alpena County, the property will be managed as part of the Atlanta Forest Management Unit.

Before closing, Commissioner Walters requested an amendment to the Wildlife Conservation Order that would open up the year-round coyote hunting season. The amendment would be up for information at the March meeting, with a potential vote in April.

The next NRC meeting is on Thursday, March 13, in Grand Rapids.

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>.

OTG Coming up Projects

Sat. April 5th Brush pile building Traverse City Forest Management unit
[Register HERE](#)
Sat. April 19th Annual Clinton River Clean-up at Yates Park Oakland County
[Register HERE](#)

On the Ground: Wood Duck Boxes & More at Maple River State Game Area

By Katelyn Helsel • February 24, 2025

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, 26 volunteers joined MUCC's [On the Ground program](#) in partnership with the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR) for a wood duck nest box event at [Maple River State Game Area](#) in Gratiot County. This area located just north of Lansing consists of farm fields, woodlands, grasslands, and cattail marshes. It is a popular destination for hunters, trappers, birders, and wildlife viewers alike.

Volunteers Maintain Nest Boxes & Remove Decking

During this project, volunteers worked within three separate units of the state game area. Each group checked nest boxes and replaced old nesting material with fresh material as needed. Any use of the nest boxes by either wood ducks or other wildlife was also noted onto a data sheet. One group of volunteers also installed two brand new boxes in an area adjacent to several ponds. These new boxes will help increase nesting success even further for this incredible species. They will continue to be monitored by the DNR in addition to the existing boxes. Additionally, brush covering the entry of the boxes was cleared and used to create brush piles for small game habitat.

Another group of volunteers removed old decking from a cross-bridge located between two units. Removal was fairly easy given that the boards were old and rotting away, which made the project all the more important. The boards will be replaced with fresh wood later in the year, therefore improving hunter accessibility. In total, volunteers improved approximately 49 acres of wildlife habitat directly through this project.

Why Is It Important?

Maintaining nest boxes for wood ducks is important to ensure this species is around for many years to come. Wood ducks are beloved birds and very popular among waterfowl hunters and birders alike. Males have a green and iridescent head with a chestnut-colored chest and other striking markings, and females are a grayish brown with white teardrops around their eyes ([Cornell University Lab of Ornithology](#)). According to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), wood ducks are second only to mallards in being the most common species harvested during waterfowl season in Michigan.

Wood ducks are cavity-nesting birds, meaning they build their nests inside sheltered areas like tree cavities. They typically nest in places where a branch has broken off and the wood has subsequently rotted, creating a hole inside of the tree ([Cornell University Lab of Ornithology](#)). When suitable nesting cavities become scarce, artificial nest boxes are a great alternative. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wood ducks were almost pushed to extinction along with other commonly hunted birds in the early 1900s due to overhunting and habitat loss. Regulations during this time were very minimal, which allowed hunters to harvest wood ducks faster than they could reproduce. Biologists began building and installing artificial nest boxes in the 1930s as a way to help boost populations. Additionally, regulations like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were created to improve protections for migratory bird species including wood ducks. As a result, wood duck populations rebounded and as many as 3 million breeding pairs exist across North America today ([U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)).

Learn More

Want to stay up to date on our upcoming events? Visit mucc.org/on-the-ground for more information on future projects. We work to conserve and enhance Michigan's public lands and wildlife through volunteer stewardship projects. Some of our events include invasive species removal, wood duck boxes, river clean-ups, tree plantings, and more. We welcome all ages, so bring a friend or two if you'd like! All registered volunteers receive lunch and a free appreciation gift for their efforts. To stay connected with all things MUCC, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

A career as a Conservation Officer in Michigan

By Department of Natural Resources

“If you’re looking for a rewarding career where you can spend time outside and teaching others about the outdoors, don’t miss this opportunity to be a part of a DNR conservation officer recruit school,” said Chief Gary Hagler, DNR Law Enforcement Division. “Our recruits say the conservation officer academy is one of the biggest and best challenges of their lives, setting them up for success in a one-of-a-kind career they love.”

Watch this video [HERE](#)

Steps to apply

1. A physical fitness test and entry-level law enforcement exam are the first two steps toward submitting an application.

Sign up for a [physical fitness test offered](#) through the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards.

2. Complete the [National Testing Network entry-level law enforcement exam](#). A passing test score is valid for one year. While the civil service exam is currently unavailable, applicants residing in Michigan who have successfully completed the civil service exam within the past five years can submit those exam results.

3. After receiving passing test results, candidates can submit their applications through the [State of Michigan job openings website](#).

Candidates should be motivated self-starters with excellent communication skills who enjoy helping others learn about natural resources.

Applicants are not required to have a college education, background in law enforcement, or fish and game experience. All conservation officer recruits will receive comprehensive training during the academy, as well as being paired with veteran DNR conservation officers during their first assignments after graduation.

Anyone interested in learning more or asking about the hiring process is encouraged to [contact a recruiter](#).

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Michigan conservation officers are fully commissioned law enforcement officers who provide natural resources protection, ensure recreational safety and protect citizens through general law enforcement and conducting lifesaving operations in the communities they serve. Learn more at Michigan.gov/ConservationOfficers.



Youth Camp Brochure [HERE](#)

Shop MUCC

[Shop Men's](#) [Shop Women's](#)

Convention Brocher and Agenda
[HERE](#)

Mike Avery's Outdoor Magazine
Battle Creek WBCK / St. Joe WSJM
[Podcast](#)



Happenings Around the Region In March 2025

Grand Valley Cap & Ballers : 2025 Sporting Clays 4/19/25. 5/17/25, 6/21/25, 7/19-20/25, 9/20/25 10/11/25.... Frontier Shoot 7/21-8/2 MUCC fundraiser 7/19-20/25 [check here](#) for more events

Fennville Rod and Gun Club Trap & skeet every Sat. in March 12-5 For more events go [HERE](#)

Grass Lake Sportsman Club: go to Facebook and website for updates. [HERE](#)

Hillsdale County Conservation Club: Check HCCC Facebook page for upcoming events

New Buffalo Rod and Gun Club: Sundays in March Trap Practice 10AM. Wed's in March Trap Games Practice 6PM Games 6:30 Thur's in March Trap Practice 6PM

Dowagiac Conservation Club: 54551 M 51 North Dowagiac .Trap Meet Shoot Sunday March 16th 9AM-2PM /Fish Fry March 16 4:30-7PM

Bend of the River Conservation Club Monday's & Wed. in March Basic Pistol Training indoors. 8AM-5PM / Wednesday's 9am-4pm includes live fire. Contact Suzanne Beaty 312-618-3588 /Monday's in March . 8AM-5PM Basic Pistol training

Paw Paw Conservation Club: Year round Trap 4-6PM 3-D Archery June– Sept. 8AM-1PM/ Community Open House May 3rd. 10AM-4PM

Edwardsburg Conservation Club : March 6th, 13th.20th.27th Beg /Intermediate Line Dancing. 3:30PM/ CPL Class March 29th 8AM-4PM/ March Tuesday's Eve Trap Shoot 8PM/ Sat's Trap Shooting Games 10AM-3PM

Hamilton Rod and Gun Club: Calcutta March 14th Protection 5:30 Shoot at 7PM food available

Jackson County Outdoor Club: Sunday's Youth League 1PM Beginners Class Basic Fundamentals / Winter Leagues 1/8/25-3/12/25 Weds. Spot league 6:30 PM /Thur. through 3/13/25 Animal League Archery 6:30PM

Bellevue Conservation Club: We have 3 Trap/Skeet combo fields with lights. March 8th Shoot the Moon 5 Stand 5:30-11PM March 15th 6-8PM BCC Steak Fry Cash Bar \$18 per person 8484 Greenfield Highway, Bellevue, Michigan 49021.

St. Joseph Conservation Club. See Feb. Calendar [HERE](#)

All Species Conservation Club Next meeting March 11th at new location " Rooster Call" 6:30 9136 Shaver Rd. Portage Mi. 49024

Van Buren Sportsman's Club /Burger Night Wed. 5-8PM/ Fish Fry Fri. 5-8PM

Big 9 Sportsman Club Friday Night Fish Fry & Chicken Dinners . Cost Adults and Children over 12 \$13 Senior Citizens 65+ and children under 12 \$10. Kids under 5 eat for free. Beautiful view of the Lake. Go [HERE](#) on Facebook for Updates.

Since 1937, MUCC has been Michigan's first voice for the outdoors. From protecting our resources to preserving our outdoor heritage to fighting for the conservation of Michigan's wildlife, fish, forests and the rights of those who love the outdoors. Our history is impressive

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

Podcast

Episode 11 Podcast [HERE](#)

Camo & Conservation

Friday April 12th at Bryon Center

Get Tickets [HERE](#)

Ultimate Sport Show Volunteering

March 13-16, 2025

Sign Up [HERE](#)

Devos Hall in Grand Rapids

Michigan Trails [Click Here](#)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

[Wildtalk Podcast](#)



**Are you ready to save a
life?**

Several members of your club need to see this video to be prepared in case of an emergency to know what to do. A suggestion is to have at least one member who has seen this video present during any event at the club and spend the time and money to get them CPR certified. An annual review of the video is also suggested.

The link below is a great demonstration of CPR and AED usage in an emergency. If you do not have a AED (Automated external defibrillator) you need to have one at your club. I am here today because someone knew how to do CPR and the club had a AED.

Put this link into your computer browser. The video is about 21 minutes long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoXZCDH2bIU&t=47>

Or Click [HERE](#)



When minutes count



To my region 7 members and Clubs. This is the 44th issue of The Quiver. I have enjoyed putting this together and keeping you engaged with MUCC. My term as region 7 director is over after convention and will shut down the press for a while and take a rest from the keyboard. I know that headquarters is working on a region newsletter for the Directors to participate in. I am not going away just going to be on the sidelines. Thanks ahead-of-time for staying involved with MUCC. You always have my ear. Ron B



What's Cooking Shepherd's Pie

While many enjoy corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day Shepherd's Pie offers a flavorful alternative with deep Irish roots

1 1/2 lbs russet potato's
2 tbsp. canola oil
1 cup chopped onion
2 carrots, peeled and finely diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1-1/2 ground lamb
1-3/4 tsp kosher salt
3/4 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
2 tsp, tomato paste
1 cup chicken broth
2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
1 tsp. chopped fresh thyme
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup half & half. 1/4 cup unsalted butter
1 large egg yolk
1/2 cup corn kernels, fresh or frozen
1/2 cup peas, fresh or frozen

Method

*Preheat oven to 400 deg. F
*Boil diced potatoes in a saucepan until tender. 10-15 min.
*Saute onion and carrots in oil over medium –high heat for 3-4 min. then add garlic, meat, salt and pepper, cooking until browned.
*Stir in flour, then add , paste, broth Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, and thyme, Simmer until thickened 10-12 min.
* Warm half & half and butter in microwave. Mash drained potatoes, mix in warm liquid, salt and pepper, and egg yolk.
*Spread meat mixture in a 7x11 in. baking dish , top with peas and corn and mashed potatoes , sealing the edges.
*Bake on parchment lined pan for 25 min. until golden. Let rest 15 min. before serving.



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