

The Quiver

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Region 7 Monthly Newsletter

October 2024 Vol. 39

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease is back again

[Department of Natural Resources](#)

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is an acute, infectious, often fatal viral disease of some wild ruminants. This malady, characterized by extensive hemorrhages, has been responsible for significant epizootics in deer in the northern United States and southern Canada. A similar hemorrhagic disease called bluetongue also occurs throughout the U.S. and Canada. The two diseases are antigenically different.

Distribution

Since 1890, deer die-offs from diseases which might have been EHD have occurred in various parts of North America. These early die-offs were variously diagnosed as blackleg, blacktongue, bluetongue, mycotic stomatitis or hemorrhagic septicemia or they were undetermined. The causative agents were never confirmed. A review of the case histories, signs and lesions, seasonal occurrence, and lack of a bacterial agent suggests that they might have been EHD.

The first occurrence and subsequent identification of EHD occurred in 1955 when several hundred white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) succumbed in both New Jersey and in Michigan. It was considered a new disease of deer and the name 'epizootic hemorrhagic disease' was suggested to describe its main clinical and pathological features.

Since the initial 1955 outbreak, this malady has occurred primarily among white-tailed deer, although occasionally mule deer (*O. hemionus*) and pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) have succumbed. EHD has been present in the United States for over 50 years now and large-scale regional deer population decreases have not been observed. Additional die-offs attributed to EHD occurred in Michigan in white-tailed deer in:

Hemorrhagic disease can be transmitted to other wild ruminants. The EHD virus can infect domestic animals, most commonly hoof stock, but rarely causes disease. The edibility of the venison is not impacted by the disease. There is no evidence that humans can contract the EHD virus either from the midge or from handling and eating venison. Pets and wildlife cannot be infected by either midges or from EHD infected deer carcasses.

- 1974 — significant outbreak.
- 2006 — Allegan County.
- 2008 — Oakland & counties.
- 2009 — Livingston County.
- 2010 — 6 counties: Allegan, Berrien, Ionia, Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa, St. Joseph
- 2012— 30 counties: Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clare, Clinton, Eaton, Genessee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lenawee, Manistee, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newago, Osceola, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee, St. Joseph, Washtenaw, Wayne
- 2013— 7 counties: Allegan, Berrien, Ionia, Muskegon, Oceana, Ottawa, St Joseph
- 2014 and 2015 — no cases reported.
- 2016 — Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties.
- 2017 — 13 counties.
- 2018 — Calhoun and Kent counties.
- 2019 — Cass County.
- 2020 — 4 counties: Allegan, Kalamazoo, Roscommon and Saginaw counties.
- 2021 — 24 counties: Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Oceana, Shiawassee, St. Claire, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne
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- 2022 — 5 counties: Cass, Lenawee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Washtenaw.
- 2023 — Washtenaw county.

The mode of transmission of EHD in nature is via a *Culicoides* biting fly or midge. *Culicoides variipennis* is the most commonly incriminated vector in North America. A deer must be bitten by a midge carrying the virus to become infected. The disease is not transmitted directly from one deer to another but must go through the insect vector. A common observation in outbreaks involving large numbers of deer is that they are single epizootics which do not recur. Die-offs involving small numbers of deer occur almost annually, and the disease appears to be enzootic in these areas. All documented outbreaks of EHD have occurred during late summer and early fall (August-October) and have ceased within two weeks of the onset of frost, which kills the midge.

Clinical signs of EHD and bluetongue are very similar.

White-tailed deer develop signs of illness about 7 days after exposure. A constant characteristic of the disease is its sudden onset. Deer initially lose their appetite and fear of humans, grow progressively weaker, often salivate excessively, develop a rapid pulse and respiration rate, and fever (affected animals frequent bodies of water to lie in to reduce their body temperature) and finally become unconscious. Hemorrhage and lack of oxygen in the blood results in a blue appearance of the oral mucosa, hence the name 'bluetongue'. Eight to 36 hours following the onset of observable signs, deer pass into a shock-like state, become prostrate and die.

Treatment and Control. There is no known effective treatment or control of EHD. Theoretically, an oral vaccine could be developed for administration through a supplementary winter-feeding program, but this is presently impossible, impractical and unwarranted. For questions about wildlife diseases, please contact the [Michigan DNR Wildlife Health Laboratory](#)

OTG in October

Saturday, October 5, 2024 - Native Shrub and Tree Planting in the Manistee National Forest (Oceana County) - Register [HERE](#)

Friday, October 18, 2024 - Mast-Producing Tree Planting at Maple River State Game Area - Register [HERE](#)

February 4th 2025

Last Region 7 Meeting before the Annual Convention at Treetops in Gaylord

March 7-9 2025. The meeting will be held at Jackson County Outdoor Club

If you interested in what's happening with the Wolf in Michigan

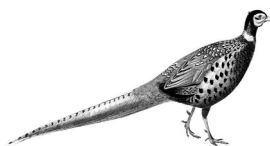
Michigan's Wolf Management Plan [Here](#)

TRACKS Don't forget to sign up for TRACKS magazine subscription. The first issue for this volume will be coming out next month, and you don't want to miss it. This is a great gift for your child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor, or any youth in your life! Just \$20 for eight issues mailed right to their home. [Sign up TODAY.](#)

Ranch Bonanza

Mark your calendars for October 18th as we launch the 2024 **Rooster Ranch Bonanza**, our brand-new event taking place at the Rooster Ranch in Ubly, MI. This European & Field hunt experience will be the highlight of your fall. We will be serving a gourmet country breakfast, warming up with some sporting clays, bagging some birds with a European hunt, enjoying lunch, giving away some amazing raffles, walking a field hunt, and then closing with some beverages back at the clubhouse to celebrate conservation and our outdoor heritage. This action-packed day will be sure to make some lasting memories, and you'll go home with some birds to enjoy no matter what! COST \$325.00

**Going to be a
cackling good time.**



To register use the QR code. Or contact :

Swindom@MUCC.org



September 2024 NRC Preview

By [Tyler Mehigh](#) September 8,, 2024

The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) meets this Thursday, September 12, at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at Lansing Community College West Campus.

Up for action at the meeting will be a series of fisheries orders. A breakdown of these orders can be found in [our August recap](#).

While most of the orders represent administrative changes, or simplification of boundaries, one is focused on the commission's decision last November. That order lowered steelhead bag limits on several streams across the state, an amendment MUCC opposed.

Fisheries Order 200.25 changes is a cleanup of ambiguous language in the fisheries order so that regulations more clearly align with the commission's intent. The intent of the order is to clear up any gray areas so that steelhead bag limits follow the commissions clearly stated goal of a one steelhead bag limit.

Up for information are several orders:

202.25 – Hook size regulations for Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Whitehall/Montague during November to protect whitefish

205.25 – Modifying lake sturgeon regulations for the Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters to close the Montreal River to lake sturgeon fishing and harvest

206.25 – Special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters. Mainly relating to Northern Pike, bass, and Muskellunge

219.25 – Bow, spear, and crossbow closures in Grand Haven, Muskegon, and Whitehall/Montague in November to protect whitefish populations

240.24a – Black Lake sturgeon fishing regulation changes

WCO No. 9 of 2024 – Changes to the Canada Goose Management Program relating to relocation and permitting structure

WCO No. 10 of 2024 – Prohibition of possession or discharge of firearms in the Windsor Township State Game Area

These orders will be eligible for action at the October NRC meeting in Marquette.

Also on the agenda are language changes for WCO No. 8 of 2024, changing the program name from Mentored Youth Hunting Program to the Mentored Hunting Program, as well as a new license called the inclusive mentored license. Additionally, a recommendation to discount the extended late antlerless firearm season licenses to \$5 per license.

MUCC will be streaming the meeting on our Facebook page as technology allows.

Good Luck
Bow Hunters.



Ruffed Grouse Seasons in Michigan

September 15-November 14th

December 1st—January 1st

MUCC & MTPCA File Briefs in Lawsuit Against the NRC

By Justin Tomei September 20, 2024

On September 6, Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association (MTPCA) filed legal briefs in their lawsuits against the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC).

MUCC's brief, which can be read [HERE](#), argues that the NRC illegally closed Michigan's coyote season for a quarter of the year in March of 2024 by failing to use the best available science, and focusing instead on unsubstantiated claims of negative public perception.

MUCC's brief highlights the statements of the commissioners who voted in support of the closure, and those of the exceptionally few hunters who joined the commission in disregarding the principles of sound scientific management. The statements from the commissioners clearly show that sound scientific management was not a consideration in the decision-making process.

MUCC Chief Executive Officer Amy Trotter says that the public record is clear, the commission's decision failed to abide by their legal charge and responsibility to keep game management decisions based in science.

"The voters of Michigan were clear when they overwhelmingly passed Proposal G: scientific data needs to drive our game management decisions," said Trotter. "After reviewing the public record, it is abundantly clear the commission failed in following their legal charge. By relying on social pressures, real or perceived, the commission set a dangerous precedent where our outdoor heritage is threatened based on the social and political winds of the day."

MUCC is joined in the lawsuit by MTPCA who filed a separate brief, found [HERE](#).

MTPCA's brief highlights how commissioners trusted the instincts of one individual supporting the closure to appease anti-hunting interests, rather than the proven record of sound scientific management as dictated by Proposal G.

MTPCA President Joe Velchansky says this issue is larger than coyotes, and the future of Michigan's outdoor heritage is at stake.

"This issue is so much bigger than coyotes, the very foundation of Michigan's game management is at stake," Velchansky said. "The minute we as conservationists compromise our principles is the minute we lose the whole thing, and that is not something we are prepared to do."

The NRC will now file a response brief, due to the court in mid-October.

For more information on MUCC visit mucc.org.

Contact: jtomei@mucc.org.

For more information on MTPCA visit mtpca.com

Contact: merlejones336@gmail.com

Check this out



Michigan Department of Natural Resources [Wildtalk Podcast](#)

Federal Conservation Priorities Update

By Justin Tomei September 6th 2024

Partisan gridlock has brought most congressional work to a standstill, not just conservation priorities.

MUCC alongside its national partners continues to work to advance several federal conservation policy priorities.

Federal Rule on National Wildlife Refuges & Lead Ammunition

Last week MUCC joined other statewide conservation organizations in a public comment letter addressing a new rule expanding hunting and angling opportunities on hundreds of thousands of acres of National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) lands.

On this round of openings, no Michigan lands were included, but the large-scale expansion of big-game hunting and angling opportunities is something to be applauded.

The service has also expressed support for a voluntary pilot program to educate hunters on the use of non-toxic ammunition and fishing tackle. Per MUCC's member passed policy, we support education on non-lead fishing and ammunition alternatives, however we do not support mandates.

The rule was not all positive though. With this expansion of opportunity, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also dictated these new lands would prohibit the use of any lead fishing tackle, or lead ammunition for the take of big game. This mandate came without justification of harm, or specifying a specific management goal, just with a vague statement about lead causing harm. MUCC and our partners requested the removal of this unfounded mandate.

The full comment letter can be found [HERE](#).

Farm Bill

Work on the Farm Bill largely remains stagnant. The gridlock in Washington, especially as the November election looms, has brought most work to a halt.

The Farm Bill expired in the fall of 2023 and has been operating on an extension since then. It is unlikely a new Farm Bill will be passed before the end of September, when it expires once again.

Both sides have submitted marker bills, but the progress has been painfully slow. MUCC continues to work with national partners, meeting regularly to discuss progress and policy priorities within the Farm Bill.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) legislation has been a dream of conservationists and state game agencies across the country for a decade at least. This legislation could be as impactful as Pittman-Robertson or Dingell-Johnson.

In 2022, [RAWA passed the U.S. House of Representatives](#), but failed to get a vote on the Senate floor. Since that time, the partisan gridlock in Washington has swallowed this legislative priority as well.

The 2022 version of RAWA, sponsored by Michigan Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (D-12), would provide some of the most meaningful conservation funding in a generation; nearly \$1.4 billion to support the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program for states, territories and tribal nations to provide proactive efforts to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

Many of the projects RAWA could fund are currently being paid for using hunting and fishing license dollars, and RAWA could help subsidize nongame management freeing up hunter and angler dollars to be used for our highest priority game species.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

STATE LAND USE RULES

Next Region 7 Meeting is December 1st



Hamilton Rod and Gun Club 3252 50th St. Hamilton Mi

Lunch: 11:30 Meeting; 12:15

If you 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 or call 269-209-1770

SAVE THE DATE : March 7-9 2025

2025 Annual Convention

[Treetops Resort in Gaylord Mi.](#)

Help MUCC continue to defend your rights to hunt, fish and trap in Michigan today. Your generous contribution allows us to put on our yearly summer camp for kids, restore habitat across the state, and fight anti-hunting legislation in Lansing.



Conservation
2nd Amendment
Restoring Habitat

Anti-Hunting
Legislation





Checking in on young walleye: DNR begins fall surveys in September

DNR News Sept. 26 2024

If you're on the water in late September to early October, be on the lookout for Michigan Department of Natural Resources personnel conducting nighttime walleye recruitment surveys. Fisheries managers use these surveys to determine whether walleye that hatched in the spring (known as young-of-year) were born in the wild or were stocked, as well as how many are present in an area. This information about the status of young walleye in lakes helps the DNR make well-informed management decisions.

Using electrofishing boats at night, crews will survey shallow areas near the shoreline of lakes with the goal of capturing juvenile walleye. Walleye prefer cooler, deeper areas of lakes during the day but move into shallow, nearshore areas at night, making nighttime surveys more efficient. On larger lakes, two or more electrofishing crews using separate boats may operate at the same time to cover more area. The crews will work on a subsample of Michigan lakes that have been stocked with walleye, as well as lakes that have not.

Continued on page 9



Biologists also collect and keep a sample of young-of-year walleye from stocked lakes to determine whether the fish are primarily reproducing naturally or if young-of-year are from stocking. All other walleye will be released unharmed. Walleye that are stocked in these lakes are marked with oxytetracycline, a chemical marker that can be observed within captured fish by using a microscope with an ultraviolet light source in a laboratory setting.

Some surveys will be conducted collaboratively with tribal agencies; tribal natural resource departments also will conduct surveys independently of the DNR. In the Upper Peninsula, the U.S. Forest Service will also be collaborating on surveys and conducting independent surveys in the Hiawatha National Forest as part of an effort to create long-term datasets for a number of inland lakes managed for walleye.

Everyone is urged to use caution when fishing or on the water near electrofishing boats, and anyone wading will be asked to exit the water when a survey boat approaches and during electrofishing work. Crews will be using bright lights to illuminate the water around the boat and running a generator on board, which may make it difficult to hear and speak with anyone on shore, such as anglers and lake residents.

[Learn more about how the DNR manages Michigan's fisheries.](#)



Happenings Around the Region In September 2024 open to the public

Grand Valley Cap & Ballers : Sporting Clays (modern shotguns)].Oct. 12.. Oct. 5,6 Meat Shoot, Octoberfest.

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 \$7 8am-11am followed by a Calcutta at 10AM Oct. 27th Basic CPL Class

Grass Lake Sportsman Club: go to Facebook and website for updates. Pistol Shoot Oct 12 10AM \$5 center fire pistols only.

Hillsdale County Conservation Club: Monthly 30 3-D target shoots. All shoots run from 9am-1pm.

New Buffalo Rod and Gun Club: Oct. Wednesdays Trap Games shoot 6:30 pm and Sunday Trap practice 10am to 1pm. Thur. 6pm. NON-ME8MBERS are welcome to attend all upcoming events!

Dowagiac Conservation Club: Fish Fry Oct 18th 4:30-7pm All You Can Eat, . CPL Class 8AM-5PM for info. Call 269-487-6161

Bend of the River Conservation Club: Mon. & Wed. all month Basic Pistol Training \$5. 9am-4pm for Mon. Contact Larry Hupp 269-240-3123. Hunter Education Sept. 18th 6pm-8pm (training in clubhouse)

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. Oct. 13th / 50 Bird Trap Shoot 1pm-4pm Oct 27th monthly Muzzleloader shoots 10am-4pm. CPL Class Oct. 27th 8-4PM Contact Kelly Adams 269-462-2584

Hamilton Rod and Gun Oct. 11th Calcutta Protection 5:30 Draw for Calcutta is 7:00 food available.

Jackson County Outdoor Club: Trap shooting Wednesday nights 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 Oct. 12th 9AM–6PM. Oct. Tue. All month 5:30 youth trap practice 6 pm, Sundays Trap and Skeet 9-12pm / Hunter Ed. Oct 19th 8am-2:30pm

All Species Conservation Club October 8th meeting at The Traveler Pub 6PM DNR Fisheries Speaker Christmas Party Dec.. 7th

Van Buren Sportsman's Club Open to the public every Wednesday from 5-8pm for Burger night/ Taco Salad dinner, and every Friday 5-8pm for Fish, Chicken and Shrimp dinners. Yummy !!

If you would like your clubs activities posted here just jot me a note of what's happening rhbhunt@pearserealty.com or give me a call at 269-209-1770

Find your elected State Representatives

[HERE](#)

Michigan Out of doors Podcast

NEW

[HERE](#)



What's Cooking ?

Braised Venison or Bear Steaks

"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

- 1 Full Cut leg steak, 2 inch thick
- 2 Large onions cut into chunks
- 4-5 Stalks celery, cut into large chunks
- 8-10 Carrots cut into large chunks
- 1 Cup red wine
- 3 Cups water
- 6 Bullion cubes more or less to taste
- 4-5 Bay leaves
- 1 Rutabaga peeled, cut into large Chunks
- 1 can dices tomatoes
- 5-6 White potatoes, cut into large chunks
- Pepper , freshly ground to taste

Method

May be done in Dutch Oven or at home in your oven. Flour the meat and brown on both sides. Add everything else except the potato's. Make sure you mix the bullion liquid well. Add potato's 1/2 hour before finish. If you prefer to have thick sauce thicken with roux or corn-starch



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