



Saginaw Field & Stream Club Newsletter

www.saginawfieldandstream.com



Volume 2009
Issue 4
April

Membership Meetings
are at the Crooked
Creek Banquet Ctr.
9387 Gratiot Rd.

Next Meeting

*Thurs. April 16,
2009*

7:00 PM

*The Program will be
Al Stewart, MDNR
Turkey Specialist*

*Marlow W. Durn was not in
his seat missed out on \$320
The Cash Raffle is worth \$340
if your in your seat.*

*Dennis Burns won the
Gift Certificate from Bare's
Sporting Goods*

*April Prize will be a
\$300 Cash*

Identification Statement
Saginaw Field and Stream Club
Newsletter is published monthly
by the Saginaw Field and Stream
Club.
P O Box 2092, Saginaw, MI 48605
2092

The business cards in this publication are not paid advertisements. These businesses have supported Saginaw Field and Stream Club and the cards are in recognition of this. Please support those who support us!

Newsletter is now on the web site
You can view the complete newsletter and calendar
on the club website

Check out the member items for sale section (it's free)

Job Well Done!

I have been involved with the board of directors since 1989 and I have served in different officer chairs. I have seen a lot of people come and go on the board. This last board meeting I had the displeasure of accepting the resignation of Don Belisle from the board. In the time that Don has served our club I found him to be a pleasure to work with. He is extremely **knowledgeable and has served on many committee's. He has improved** our programs at membership meetings. He worked tirelessly for our banquet. He serves on our building committee and has been a valuable asset. We have had and do have a lot of good directors. Don Belisle is out in front of the pack. I commend Don for following his convictions. I really do wish Don and Ruth Belisle all the best there is.

Tom Heritier, President

INDOOR ARCHERY

"Congratulations" to Jeff Williams for shooting eleven (11) straight 300's in the Tuesday night animal league. Our modern day Robin Hood, Fantastic shooting.

Youth Archery

Thanks to all the people who helped out with the youth archery program, and to all who participated in the class. We had ninety five (95) applicants this year. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again next year.

3-D

We are in need of help for the outdoor 3-D shoots. If you can help please call Richard Zanavich. 989-233-3862

Club Shooting Hours

Are as follows, 0800 AM until sunset, use you hunting guide to determine sunset. If there is an organized event under lights, that may go to 10 PM. The lights on ranges are for organized events only.

Guest's

Anyone who is not immediate family is considered a guest and is required to pay the \$5.00 guest fee. Tubes are located on each range. Immediate family is defined as, spouse, and minor children.

Club Administrative News

Financial Report

James L. De Clerck, Treasurer

Income: \$ 73,004.75
Expenses: \$ 52,348.22
Savings Account: \$ 219,372.57
Checking Account: \$ 8,478.12

Building Donations

\$38,926.00



Membership Report April, 2009

Mike Meyer, Membership Secretary

1527
General
Members

47
Associate
Members

1574
Total
Membership

New General Members

Brian Armstrong
Alfred J Christina
Gregory J Derleth
David A Hasse, Jr
Frank H Kunc
Michael A Martin
Gary R Niethammer
Darryl J Perry
Ryan M Quinn
Len E Schaeding
George W Stewart
Gary A Weber

James R Blue
Jason C Clayton
Jack R Elliott
Thomas Holubik
Christopher M Kutch
Chad T McNier
Steven D Niswonger
Mark J Perry
Arthur J Rick
Jason G Sieveke
Christopher Sylvester
Richard J Williams

Michael D Christian
Aaron L Demand
Richard L Gossett
James B Huffman
Stephen G LaBelle
John V Mulby
Brian G Ott
Arthur J Quinn
Robert J Sawyers
James C Snapp
Kevin G Waier
Howard R Yingling

New Associate Members

Richard J Gossett

Linda K Jackson

Brian A Quinn



APPROPRIATIONS
CHAIR — DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
VICE-CHAIR — DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
VICE-CHAIR — JUDICIARY AND CORRECTIONS
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Saginaw Field and Stream Club Planner for April 5 - May 16, 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 5 Snow Bird Trap Shoot 9 AM	6 Black Powder Shotgun 6PM	7 Black Powder Rifle 6 PM Trap & Skeet 4 PM	8	9 Skeet 6 PM	10	11 Trap & Skeet 11 AM
12	13 Black Powder Shotgun 6PM	14 Black Powder Rifle 6 PM Trap & Skeet 4 PM 4-H Archery 6:30 PM CEC	15 FBI Pistol Range 9A-3PM Cowboy Pistol Practice 5 PM	16 Membership Meeting 7 PM Crooked Creek Turkey Program	17	18 3-D Archery 8AM-4PM Trap & Skeet 11 AM Youth Small Bore 8:30-11:00AM
19 3-D Archery 8AM-4PM	20 Black Powder Shotgun 6PM	21 Black Powder Rifle 6 PM Trap & Skeet 4 PM	22 Cowboy Pistol Practice 5 PM	23 Skeet 6 PM	24	25 Trap & Skeet 11 AM Youth Small Bore 8:30-11:00AM
26 Registered Trap Shoot	27 Black Powder Shotgun 6PM	28 Black Powder Rifle 6 PM Trap & Skeet 4 PM 4-H Archery 6:30 PM CEC	29 Cowboy Pistol Practice 5 PM <i>Board of Directors Meeting 7 PM CEC Bldg.</i>	30 Skeet 6:00PM	May 1	2 Trap & Skeet 11 AM Youth Small Bore 6:30 PM
3 RC Boats on Lake 8 AM	4 Police Pistol Range 8-4 PM Black Powder Shotgun 6PM	5 Police Pistol Range 8-4 PM Black Powder Rifle 6 PM Trap & Skeet 4 PM MUCC Dist 10 Freeland	6 Police Pistol Range 8-4 PM Cowboy Pistol Practice 5 PM	7 Police Pistol Range 8-4 PM Skeet 6 PM	8 Police Pistol Range 8-4 PM Youth Small Bore 6:30 PM	9 Trap & Skeet 11 AM Youth Small Bore 6:30 PM
10	11 Black Powder Shotgun 6PM	12 Black Powder Rifle 6 PM Trap & Skeet 4 PM 4-H Archery 6:30 PM CEC	13 Cowboy Pistol Practice 5 PM	14 Skeet 6 PM Registered Trap Shoot 5 PM	15 Youth Small Bore 6:30 PM	16 CCW Class 8-12 PM CEC & Pistol Range Trap & Skeet 11 AM Youth Small Bore 6:30 PM

President's Commentary

The comments contained herein are entirely mine unless otherwise noted, Tom Heritier

Our tenth banquet is now history. We had a nice turn out, not as many people as last year but we made over \$17,000. If you did not attend, you missed out on a great time. The club owes the banquet committee a big thank you for their efforts.

Once again a handful of volunteers did a great work for the majority. Spring is finally here, however with yesterdays snow you **wouldn't know it.** At our last membership meeting we had a program about feral swine. All I can say about that program was **"WOW"!** This program really puts a new light on this scourge. The amount of destruction these 300 pound cock roaches do is unbelievable. For instance they are one of the few animals that can sniff out a new born

fawn. Since these things are land sharks and will eat anything, what chance does a newborn fawn have against one of these, if we get something eating the **newborn fawns, what's that going to do to our deer herd?** You can hunt/shoot these things 365 days a year under any hunting license. If they take off, it will ruin a lot of habitat not to mention they love feeding on ground nesting birds nests. What will happen to turkey, pheasant and other ground nesters? Sportsman need to take notice of these 300 pound cock roaches and eliminate them. I had a thought, maybe we should import some more cougars, those big cats just have to love pork. Imagine, woods and fields full of cougars and wild pigs, it sure would make our out of doors experience interesting. It probably would turn it into a mine field. (excuse my attempt at levity)

Now for a report on where our building stands. The blue prints have been completed by a certified architect and we went to the township planning commission, they had no problems with our project.

On Monday March 30, all the interested builders were invited to a meeting so that they could get the bid specs. The next step will be to get bids and when we have a firm number the membership will be asked if we can continue the project. More on this later.



I have received a report today from Jim Baker Fisheries Unit Manager for Southern Lake Huron. It deals with the status of Saginaw Bay and the Walleye population. One word **"FANTASTIC"** Through natural reproduction, the bay has produced the fifth large year class in the last six years. There will a tremendous amount of sub legal fish this summer but next year they will reach legal size and it will be a bonanza. Nothing but good news. It sure looks like the

MDNR fishery guys got it going in the right direction. **The perch aren't doing to bad but the young of the year** are not making it due to predation. I guess they have to eat something.

Would you hunt with this Guy? I found this photograph in my family archives. I believe it was taken **in the late 1930's or early 1940's.** This is a clear illustration of how the attitude towards hunting safety has changed. Definitely a change for the better.

A special note of thanks to Dennis Muchmore Executive Director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs. He gave the club a bunch of art prints for our banquet, and I mean a bunch. Most of the 400 banquet attendee's took home a least a couple each.

Have fun, get out doors, I hope to see you out there.

Tom Heritier, President

The Trap & Skeet Field

Trap & Skeet Report by Mike Meyer



There are only two shoots left in the Winter traveling trap "Snowbird" league as I write this and Saginaw Field and Stream still holds a small lead over Chesaning in second place with Brant and Shiawassee close behind. Only 2.4 percentage points separate the four teams. We shoot at Brant on March 29 and finish up on our home field on April 5.

Skeet and trap shooting are both starting to get a little busier. If you would like to learn how to shoot either of these, come out on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday for some personalized orientation or tips.

Hats off to Brian Armstrong. Not only did he shoot his first ever 25 straight in skeet, but he stretched it to a 50 straight! All his fellow shooters then proceeded to shoot his hat to help him celebrate.

Here are the shooters that broke 25 straight or better from February 28th thru March 24th:

Trap	Trap	Skeet
<u>75 Straight</u> Bill Otter	<u>25 Straight</u> Tom Dugalech - 2 Larry Plowman	<u>50 Straight</u> Brian Armstrong
<u>50 Straight</u> Dan Moore Bill Otter	Greg King Andy Zeek Gary Yackel	<u>25 Straight</u> Gary Yackel - 2



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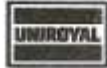
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Sounds of Spring

Yup, Pard! It's officially spring. Just step outside your door and listen to the sounds that were missing just a month or so ago. Hopefully, no more whistling winds blowing snow our way! The robins are back, singin' early in the mornin' and hopping around the yard like them Mexican jumpin' beans. Our frogs back in the swamp have been holdin' their own concerts...and fer little fellars, they sure don't need amplifiers with their music!

Here in the country, I'm hearin' the youngin's voices carrying across the field as they hop off the school bus, chatterin' all the way up the driveway. Even our horses echo spring is here as they whinny and snort in the sunshine on those warmer days we get. It sure feels fine to be outside and NOT shoveling snow. I'm more for diggin' in the flower beds than diggin' out from a snowstorm! And I know if we do get a snow splatterin', it won't last fer long. Yessirree! Spring is in the air!

Another great sound is that of lead hittin' on steel. This pardette must confess, I'm a fair-weather shooter. My hands rebel in zero weather but come spring...Yee Haw! I feel like I've taken some of that "Doc Hamilin's Wizard Oil" I wrote about last month. The cowboys held a couple Saturday practices in February and March when the weather forecast promised balmy 40's. We had over a dozen pards who must have been sufferin' the same malady as me...Spring Fever! We sure had fun clanging that steel.

Speakin' bout practices, I'll make this loud and clear. You are invited to our Wednesday night practices, starting April 15th, 5 p.m. til we git tired. Yup, the day your income taxes are due, you can come on over and make some noise for yerself. It's a great stress release after sendin' off them taxes. Even if'n you don't shoot, stop on over anyway and unwind. There's always a friendly ear to listen.

I want to remind you of the Midland Gun Show coming up on Saturday, April 25th at the Midland Fairgrounds in the Gerstacker Building. The cowboys will be there, sounding off about cowboy action shooting and promotin' our own Field & Stream Club. We'll have a video hooked up and sure enough, we'll have it cranked up as loud as them frogs in our woods! Pictures are worth a thousand words and so is the sound of cowboys shootin' it up!

I'm not too sure jest how loud the Easter bunny is, but ya never know...you jest may pass him comin' down the trail from his Easter deliveries. Keep yer eyes & ears open. And about the dilemma of nibbling the chocolate ears off first or not...Really folks, in my humble opinion, eat the ears first!!! And, least I forget... here's a question for ya. What do you call ten rabbits marching backwards? A receding hareline.

From all the cowboys, we wish you, your family and friends a blessed and joy-filled Easter celebration. Pray for our country and our troops and God bless ya'll.

Happy Trails,

Katie Callahan, SASS #23077



Natural Resources Commission Meeting, March 2009

This day's events started out with a visit to the state capitol building for a meeting of the NRC Finance and Administration Committee. The plan was to hold the meeting in the capitol building to allow easier access by **the Legislators. I didn't see any Legislators but there** were quite a few aides. The Commissioners reviewed **the 2009/10 budget which doesn't look any better than** the 2008/09 budget. In addition, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries was eliminated with the DNR picking up those responsibilities. This includes the Mackinac Island State Park operations and Historical Facilities System. Other items included were; Michigan Historical Administration, Heritage Publications, Special Programs – Mann House, Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, Museum Stores, Lighthouse Preservation Program and Freedom Trail Commission. This added about \$9.4 million to the budget of which \$6 million was provided by the General Fund. I guess the balance comes from visitor fees and purchases – at least for now.

The 2008/09 spending, reviewed later in the day, has been cut from \$275 million to \$253 million which includes spending all the restricted funds down to zero. This will probably be cut further as revenues are tracking slightly less than the current spending plan.

MUCC had requested our representation at meetings with Representatives Horn and Stamas. We slipped this in between NRC committee meetings. We have a number of issues with Representative Horn but I chose to hold off on them until a separate meeting could be arranged. The MUCC folks wanted to talk about feral swine and funding. A similar discussion was held with Representative Stamas. Both Representatives were cordial and attentive.

A couple of the issues I planned to discuss, but delayed to another time, were HB 4204 which I covered last month and HB 4460. HB 4460 establishes a taxpayer credit for losses incurred due to the feeding ban. This is retroactive to August 28, 2008 and covers business **income loss. I repeat "business INCOME loss". Not lost** profit. I will not discuss this further as the implications are pretty obvious. However, I do wonder where the money is coming from as the bill neglects to mention that.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Committee reviewed the statewide bear plan. Basically the plan is to maintain a sustainable bear population while minimizing bear-related conflicts through science-based management. **I'm not sure but it seems like the new plan is about the** same as the old plan. However, the new plan was developed with a good deal of public input and consensus. The bear and elk regulations were also reviewed. I noted little over-all change from last year. Mostly in hunt areas and quotas within hunts.

The sad thing was the review of the field trial area **regulations. Sad because, once again, "hunters" are** shooting themselves in the foot. Major field trials are held in the Ionia Recreation Area (2,800 acres) and the Highland Recreation Area (970 acres). These trials involve releasing live quail along a course. The dogs are graded on their performance and retrieval ability by

judges who are often on horseback. It seems that some individuals are aware of when the quail are released, move in and shoot the quail. This, of course, destroys the ability to hold a trial. Both areas, by the way, are leased by the clubs holding the trials. As you can imagine there have been confrontations including the pointing of fire-arms. One individual followed the person releasing the birds and shot the birds as they were being released. The person doing the releasing was on horseback. Another person shot the birds during the trial using the **dogs as his own. Sad, to say the least. I won't go into the new regulations except to say they won't stop idiots from** being idiots. They will, however, make it easy for the **C.O.'s to fill their ticket books. That will probably create** some trials on the trials. More wonderful publicity for the hunting community.

The Committee of the Whole met next. A number of House and Senate bills were discussed. SB 268, which has a ton of firearm regulations, is something we need to oppose. That in addition to the ones I previously mentioned. There was an update on the Island Lake Shooting Range. This range has been under attack by the locals for creating too much noise. The locals sued and lost on appeal which means the DNR has no requirement to do anything. The Director, in an attempt to be a good proactive neighbor, presented some changes which may help to alleviate the noise problem. Later on, during the public appearances, the same locals who lost the suit bashed the Director for doing nothing to help them. My advice to the Director is: You have nothing to loose by doing nothing. These people will continue to be at every meeting with the same rhetoric.

The public appearances were 90% on the crossbow issue. About half wanted full inclusion of crossbows and the other half wanted no inclusion of crossbows. There was very little comment on the proposal put fourth by the Commissioners. Somehow compromise has been thrown to the wind. There were comments on the bear recommendations. Apparently the consensus fell apart after the last meeting. The last couple of months I mentioned food plots on state land. There is no agreement on this **and it is unlikely there will be, so don't plan on doing it –** big fine. Well into the evening and somewhat exhausted, the Commission attended to the crossbow issue. After some adjustments to the original proposal and some parliamentary procedure advisement, the proposal was re-stated and passed. Crossbows may be used: during any season in which a firearm may be used; for any hunting season in zone 3; by anyone 50 years of age or older during the October 1st to November 14th deer season and, of course, by anyone with a disability permit. Crossbow velocity is restricted to no more than 350 feet per second. The regulations will have a three year sunset. A crossbow stamp is required for those using a crossbow. Detailed information will be gathered over the three year period. I have a gut feeling that three years from now the information gathered will dispel the crossbow myths and it will become just another tool for deer hunters to spend their money on.

Jim De Clerck



Saginaw Field and Stream Club

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Vice President.....	Dale Winters	989-792-5108
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