

# The Quiver

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Region 7 Monthly Newsletter

July 2024 Vol. 36

## MUCC Supported House Bill 5737 Passes Senate, Providing Hunting Opportunities for Individuals with Special Needs

By Justin Tomei June 27, 2024

**Lansing, MI** – On Wednesday, the Michigan Senate passed Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) supported House Bill 5737 on a 38-0 vote following its unanimous passage in the House of Representatives. The bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck), amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) to enable minor and adult individuals with certain disabilities to hunt in the presence of a mentor.

The legislation adapts the successful Mentored Youth Hunting Program to a broader Mentored Hunting Program to provide supervised hunting opportunities for individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities that prevent the individual from completing a hunter's safety course.

Under current law, the Mentored Youth Hunting Program allows individuals under the age of 10 to hunt with a guardian or authorized individual of at least 21 who holds a valid hunting license, excluding apprentice licenses. At that point, a hunter can hunt on an apprentice license for two years before state law mandates they take hunters' safety allowing them to purchase a standard hunting license.

The legislation allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to distribute mentored hunting licenses to minors and adults with special needs, allowing them to hunt under the conditions specified in the Mentored Hunting Program.

This legislation will not affect a large number 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."

The legislation now heads to Governor Gretchen Whitmer for her signature. Once signed, the DNR can begin implementation and the program should be in place before the 2024 deer season.

**About MUCC:** Michigan United Conservation Club is the largest statewide conservation organization in the nation. Founded in 1937, our mission is to unite citizens to conserve, protect, and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage.

**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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2025 Annual Convention**

**TreeTops Resort Gaylord Mich.**

**March 7-9 2025**



# MUCC and partners help families get fishing this summer

By Justin Tomei June 24, 2024

With more than 1 million anglers buying fishing licenses in Michigan each year, fishing is a time honored summer tradition. The best part about traditions is that they happen year after year. With this in mind, MUCC in partnership with the Discovery Center and Pier of Traverse City, Northwest Michigan Fishing Club and the Inland Seas Education Association, held their 2nd annual family fishing event on June 1st. With funding provided by the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT), the goal of this event is to highlight shore fishing opportunities and provide a recreational opportunity for local families in the Traverse City Area.

With a target audience of youth ages 7-15 who preferably haven't fished before, but are interested in trying it out, this event hosted 44 families throughout the day. Of those 44 families, most of them were either brand new to fishing or had very limited experience. We also had a couple of families returning from their experience last year and they brought friends with them to enjoy the day of fishing.

The day was split into two sessions. Each session had roughly 20ish families who registered. Each session was about four hours in length with a break for volunteers for lunch. The outline of the day included participants being split into groups named after native Michigan fish. Each group spent 20 minutes at a station and then rotated from station to station throughout the morning. There were four stations for the kids to learn.

MUCC staff ran the fish identification station. This station had taxidermy to pass around and focused on fish species and fish anatomy for different species. There was also a fish family sorting game. Participants were tasked with using the anatomy lessons they learned to group fish families together. The hands-on taxidermy display and the chance to take a picture with a nice steelhead was the highlight of this station

The next station was staffed by Inland Seas staff. These staff were in charge of the food web, which was highlighted by allowing the kids to sort through a variety of live macroinvertebrates. Participants enjoyed sorting mayfly larvae, dragonfly larvae, scuds and a variety of other water "bugs". This station was designed not only to connect the kids to not often seen creatures of the bay, but also get them thinking about what fish eat, so they can think about bait!

The next two stations were run by volunteers from the Northwest Michigan Fishing Club. Knot tying and practice casting were the next two rotations. Volunteers used plastic fish and hula hoops to provide targets to teach casting. The knot of the day was the Palomar knot. After a few lessons, the kids picked up knot tying pretty quick and were ready for the next session.

Continued from pg. 3

We were fortunate enough to be joined by two local conservation officers who spent the day with us. So, after the station rotation, the officers spent about 10 minutes talking about rules, regulations and the ethics of fishing. They answered several questions and reviewed the fishing digest.

The afternoon group followed the same schedule and also had a tough go of catching. They did manage to land a few rock bass and a smallmouth, but for most of the groups it was a goby filled day. Many of the gobies ended up going home to become garden fertilizer.

Overall it was a great day on the water with good partners. Thank you to the volunteers, and staff who helped make this another successful event, and to the GLFT for the funding for the 2nd year of this program.

A thought to leave you with, according to the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, "86% of current fishing participants started before the age of 12." If you are going fishing this summer, take a young person with you. You could be helping them find a passion for life

**The next NRC meeting is Thursday, July 11th  
2024 at Lansing Community College West Campus.  
Watch committee as whole live on MUCC's Facebook**

[: Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Awareness Week](#)

Excerpt's from MUCC's Website Americorps blog July 3 2024

This week, we celebrate one of the most important holidays in the history of our country. Fireworks will fill the skies, drinks will be ice cold, and backyard grills will be fired up as people celebrate the red, white, and blue. However, this week also marks an important week for invasive species. June 30 – July 6 is this year's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Awareness Week. [Around 50 boat landing events](#) are planned throughout the state to mark the occasion and spread awareness about aquatic invasives. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notes that "[public awareness about the impacts of harmful, nonnative aquatic plants and animals is critical to protecting Michigan's ecosystems, tourism, and economy](#)".

Want to learn how to take action and help prevent aquatic invasive species from further spreading? The Michigan DNR requires a few key things that every boater and angler must do when recreating on Michigan's waters:

- **Remove all aquatic organisms** from boats and trailers before launching or transporting
- **Remove all drain plugs** and drain all water before transporting
- **Dispose of unused bait in the trash**, and do not throw it into the water

**See Pg. 8 for one of Michigan Invasive species highlighted**

# Great Lakes invasive carp barrier system scaled down to be more cost efficient, but cost rises

As of December 2023, construction is set to begin in 2024 to prevent invasive Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan through a choke point in Illinois. The project will install defenses like electric and bubble barriers. As of February 2023, the project was estimated to cost \$860 million, but the Army Corps is revising that number.

The price tag for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam barrier system near Chicago is now nearly \$1.2 billion as per Michigan Public NPR

## Mi - Trees

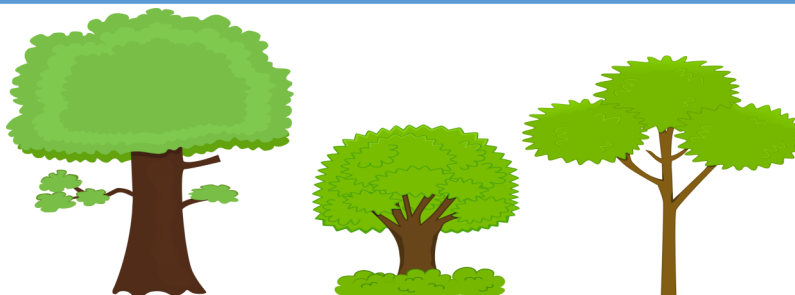
[MI-trees](#) is a mapping database where the Department of Natural Resources and public can track Michigan's progress towards achieving a global goal of restoring and growing a trillion trees through the Trillion Trees campaign. To further this goal, the DNR has pledged to plant 50 million trees by 2030 and aims to inspire people to join the effort. Join us and get ready to plant trees this spring! You can use trees to help keep your home cooler in summer, attract backyard wildlife or help pollinators like bees and butterflies.

When selecting the perfect tree for your space, answer these questions:

- Will it thrive in your area's growing zone?
- Can your site support its specific water, light or soil needs?
- How big will it grow? Will roots or branches interfere with building foundations or power lines?
- Is it native or non-native? A healthy mix of native trees provides the most benefits to insects and wildlife.

You can buy trees from seedling nurseries, the Arbor Day Foundation and from local retail and wholesale vendors.

Visit [Michigan.gov/MiTrees](https://Michigan.gov/MiTrees) to learn more about the pledge to plant 50 mil-



# Michigan Legislature provides significant investment in Sportsmen Against Hunger

By Justin Tomei June 27th 2024

Thursday morning the Michigan legislature completed work on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, adjourning at 5 a.m.

After an 18-hour session, a budget agreement was finally passed, which included funding of a conservation priority in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) budget but did not reach an agreement on the Recreation Passport Opt-Out.

Within the DNR budget was a \$550,000 investment into the Sportsmen Against Hunger program for purchasing refrigerated trailers to store harvested deer or processed venison.

The Sportsmen Against Hunger program was created by Public Acts 116 & 117 of 2005. Since that time, the DNR has partnered with Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger (MSAH) to coordinate the efforts of Michigan hunters and Michigan-based licensed wild game processors to feed the hungry of our state.

MSAH is an all-volunteer organization working in coordination with the Michigan DNR to facilitate licensed game processors throughout the state as drop off locations for white-tailed deer harvested by hunters. These deer are donated to local food banks to help feed communities.

These trailers will provide important storage for donated venison, helping relieve the storage burden on processors, hunters and farmers harvesting excess deer who seek to donate the meat.

Investments into MSAH provide for both humanitarian and deer management efforts in the state, said Justin Tomei, MUCC Policy and Government Affairs Manager.

“A relatively small investment in the state’s overall budget is extremely meaningful to Michigan’s humanitarian and deer management efforts,” said Tomei. “We will now be able to safely store more meat headed to the plates of hungry Michiganders and incentivize the take of excess deer in the parts of the state that need it most. This is the textbook definition of a win-win.”

The budget specifies that the money is to be used for the purchase of refrigerated trailers, and any unspent funds can go towards disease and lead testing of donated meat.

The DNR budget did not include the Recreation Passport Opt-Out funding, which was estimated at \$17 million dollars. Legislators could not come to an agreement on the program despite it being a department priority. As a result, the funding was omitted from the budget.

A House Fiscal Analysis of the entire budget can be found [HERE](#).

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



Next Policy Board Meeting will be

August 17, 2024, [Jay's Webber Wildlife Education Center](#), 3891  
E Surrey Rd, Clare, MI 48617.

## MUCC REGION 7 FUND RAISER

### SPORTING CLAYS

Held at: [Grand Valley Cap & Ballers](#)

3506 26TH ST GATE #2 HOPKINS MICHIGAN 49328

July 20 & 21, 2024 Shooting Starts at 9AM Both Days

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC \$35.00 Per person 50 Bird Match

Must Supply your own Shot Shells. No shot size larger than 7 1/2 allowed  
Trophies for Top Gun in Men and Women, Girls & Boys 17 & under & Team

Raffle items both days

Re-entry is allowed.

You can shoot the GVCNB one first and shoot the MUCC next in the same day

Come the day before and camp for only \$5/night Elec. included, Air \$10 more if needed

GVCNB Range rules apply: For more information Call: Ron Fernwalt 616-836-5760 or Dave  
McMurry 269-370-0095 or Ron Burris 269-209-1770



## Invasive Species Spotlight

### New Zealand Mudsnail



**Habitat:** New Zealand mud snails can tolerate a wide variety of habitats, including reservoirs, estuaries, rivers, and lakes. They are most prolific in water bodies with a constant temperature and flow, but are highly adaptable.

**Native Range:** New Zealand.

**U.S. Distribution:** Western United States, Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay.

**Michigan Distribution:** New Zealand mudsnail populations are present in the Au Sable, Boardman, Grass, Pere Marquette, Pine and Upper Manistee rivers in Michigan.

**Michigan Status:** New Zealand mudsnails are [prohibited in Michigan](#).

**Local Concern:** This mudsnail reproduces by cloning, which means females develop complete embryos without fertilization. In a matter of one year, a single female could result in a colony of 40 million snails. When large colonies of mudsnails are present, food for other stream invertebrate populations can become scarce. Fish that feed on native invertebrates like mayflies and caddisflies may find it more difficult to forage in rivers invaded by New Zealand mudsnails. Fish will consume New Zealand mudsnails, but due to the snail's thick shell, equipped with a tightly closing "hatch" called the operculum, they are difficult for fish to digest, offer the fish little nutritional value and can be excreted alive. Substituting mudsnails for native food sources can reduce the growth, condition and ultimately the abundance of key sport fish including trout.

### [New Zealand Mudsnail Invasive Species Alert](#)

Contact Lucas Nathan, DNR [nathanl@michigan.gov](mailto:nathanl@michigan.gov), 517-599-9323, Bill Keiper [keiperw@michigan.gov](mailto:keiperw@michigan.gov)

### When Reporting

If possible, please take one or more photos of the invasive species you are reporting. Also make note of the location, date and time of the observation. This will aid in verification of your report. You may be asked to provide your name and con-



# 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. 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:** July Wednesdays 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 July 19th 4:30-7pm , Trap Shooting 6pm-10pm Aug, 10 CPL class 8am-5pm

**Bend of the River Conservation Club:** July Trap Practice Every Monday and Wed. Trap Games every 6:30. 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 . 3-D Archery Course. One of the finest.

**Edwardsburg Conservation Club** : Year round Trap shooting event Games on Saturdays 10-1PM. . 3D Archery 8am-2pm \$12 member \$15 Non Members July 7th Aug. 4th Sept. 8th. / 50 Bird Trap Shoot July 14th 1am-4pm July 28th monthly Muzzleloader shoots 10am-4pm

**Hamilton Rod and Gun** Trap Shoots starts every wed, 6:30 July, August. Fri. July 12th Calcutta Protection 5:30 Draw for Calcutta is 7:00 food available.

**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. July 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. Sundays 9-12 Trap and Skeet

**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

Find your elected State Representatives

[HERE](#)

## Next Region 7 Meeting

August 11th at:

[Hillsdale County Conservation Club](#)

3835 Bird Lake Rd. S. Osseo, Mi. 49266

Lunch at 11:30 meeting at 12:15-3:30

## What's Cooking ?

### Chili Walley and Vegetables

"Dixie Dave's" Recipe on [Mike Avery Outdoor Show](#)

(4 portions)

8 oz. boneless, skinless filet, per person  
3-4 Chili peppers, slices thin more or less, to taste  
2 Small zucchini  
1 large yellow pepper, julienne sliced  
1 large green pepper, julienne sliced  
1 large red onion, julienne sliced  
2 small summer squash, julienne sliced  
1 bunch cilantro  
1/2 stick butter, 3 cloves garlic diced fine  
1/2 cup white wine, Juice of 1 lime, Juice of 1 lemon.

#### Method

Slice the vegetables in French fry sticks size. Chop the cilantro coarsely. In hot pan, add half the amount of butter and sauté the garlic fast, don't burn. Add the vegetables and stir. Sauté the vegetables for 3-4 minutes and add the wine. When boiling, put in cilantro stir and remove from heat. Spoon some mixture on baking sheet in even piles; ; place the fish on each pile, and spoon the rest of the vegetables on top. Squeeze lemon and lime, and as much chili peppers as you care for. Bake uncovered in a 350 deg. Oven for 20-25 minutes. Fish is done when flaky. 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