

The St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc.



23640 Featherstone Rd, PO Box 339, Sturgis, MI 49091
Clubhouse Telephone (269) 467-7128
Home Page: <http://www.conservationclub.net>



Volume Seventy-nine Issue 7

July 2026

Upcoming Meetings

- Member Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **Sept 14**
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, **July 27**



Scan for Club Website



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America's 250 Birthday Celebration

It would be remiss if we didn't address an important historical event that occurred 250 years ago in our country's history. In fact, if this didn't occur, we would not be the nation that we are today. As we should all be well aware of this fact, it bears repeating, the United States of America will mark its **250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence** that will occur on **July 4, 2026**, a milestone known as the **Semi-quintcentennial** or **Freedom 250**. This celebration honors 250 years of American independence from Great Britain, with events planned nationwide, as well as locally, to reflect on the nation's founding, honor veterans, and inspire future generations.

It also bears mentioning, that our individual right to bear arms allowed this to happen. It allowed us to keep and maintain our freedoms that we enjoy today. We must always protect our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms for the protection of our individual God given rights and to remain a free country.

Long Live The United States of America, and God Bless America!

Required Range Safety Briefings: *Only 10 Classes Left!*

There are 33% of existing club members who haven't taken this Range Safety training that must be done before renewing your membership for the 2027 club year. **Once all current households complete this training, these messages will go AWAY, so DON'T DELAY, sign up for your class TODAY!**

ALL CURRENT MEMBERS, **even if you do not use the rifle or pistol ranges**, need to take this "one-time" brief safety training to renew your membership. These sessions are held on the six remaining 1st Monday evenings at 6 pm, and the "final four" remaining 3rd Sat mornings at 9 am of the months listed below.

Besides in these monthly newsletters, the **FINAL** scheduled dates are listed in the club's calendar on-line on the club website. Call **Kathy Crandall** at (269) **341-5930** to schedule your date and time. *The session is quite painless, honest!*
Sign up now!

• July :	Monday	July	6	6 pm
	Saturday	July	18	9 am
• Aug:	Monday	Aug	3	6 pm
	Saturday	Aug	15	9 am
• Sept:	Monday	Sept	7	6 pm
• Oct:	Monday	Oct	5	6 pm
• Nov:	Monday	Nov	2	6 pm
	Saturday	Nov	21	9 am
• Dec:	Monday	Dec	7	6 pm
	Saturday	Dec	19	9 am

LAST CLASS!

Sporting Clays Committee Update

This will be another quick status update on the Committee's progress towards the creation of adding a 10 or 12 station, "walk-through-the-woods" Sporting Clays range at our Club.

The Committee had our second expert in the field, **Matt Gay**, tour the club grounds on May 17. He walked our proposed location for this new range with our committee members.

Matt was also quite impressed with our Club and facilities and stated this would be a great location for such a range. He also indicated that there is a need for Sporting Clays ranges in Southwest Michigan and our location would be beneficial. He has also offered to help with the writing of any grants we may want to pursue as he has experience in writing them with the MidwayUSA system and others.

Matt is associated with MEC equipment, which is the same make as our current 5-Stand sporting equipment.

The next step for the committee is to prepare a report for the BOD with the committee's recommendations and request the go-ahead with the project at the June BOD Meeting.

The Sporting Clays Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 6: Clubhouse Orientation (6 - 7 pm)
 July 6: Lower Range Closed (6 - 8 pm)*
 July 11: CPL Class (Clubhouse & IDPA)
 July 11-12: Fortress Def Class (IDPA)
 July 15: IDPA Practice (IDPA Range)
 July 17: Night Vision Dusk Shoot (Rifle)
 July 18: Clubhouse Orientation (6 - 7 pm)
 July 18: Lower Range Closed (6 - 8 pm)*
 July 18: IDPA Shoot (IDPA)
 July 19: Cowboy Action (Cowboy Range)
 July 19: Long Gong 22 (Noon-Rifle)
 July 24-26: Hoosier Daddy11 (IDPA)
 July 25: Picnic Pavilion Reserved (3-7pm)
 July 25: PRS22 Rifle Shoot (Rifle Range)
 July 27: Board Meeting 7pm

*Contact **Kathy Crandall 269-341-5930** to register for this safety orientation.

Project Appleseed - October 2 & 3 Event

"Our goal is to inspire Americans with our amazing history and re-turn America to a nation of Riflemen again. You can't write the story of America without including several chapters about the marksmanship skills and bravery of our forefathers. At Project Appleseed, we honor the pursuit of liberty of our ancestors who fought so bravely to secure it. We teach the art of rifle and pistol marksmanship during 1 or 2-day clinics. We welcome Americans of all ages and experience levels. Owning and mastering a rifle or pistol is part of our American heritage." Taken from the Project Appleseed website.

This hands-on program combines rifle marksmanship with interesting and relevant storytelling of the history of the American Revolutionary War.

On **October 2 and 3**, the St. Joseph County Conservation Club will host an Appleseed .22 caliber rifle event on the lower range. The match is shot at 25 meters on targets representing reduced sizes from 100, 200, 300 and 400 yards. The course of fire is based on the old military qualification course fired from standing, rapid sitting or kneeling, rapid prone and slow fire prone. There are magazine changes during the rapid-fire phases of the event so the ideal rifle to bring would be a Ruger 10/22 or similar rifle with at least two magazines that will hold up to ten cartridges. Scopes are not essential but are very helpful, especially if you have aging eyes. The event is open to both adults and youth.

What is Project Appleseed? It began in 1999 as a comprehensive marksmanship training program with the goal to create a nation of skilled riflemen. Led by experienced instructors, participants learn safe handling of firearms and fundamentals of marksmanship (including sight adjustment, proper position, sight alignment, breathing and trigger control). During the course of the event the participants will develop the precision and accuracy needed to consistently hit their targets.

Who should participate? Experienced marksmen who want to learn to shoot better, or your sons and daughters who should learn to shoot safely and well. I have been shooting for over sixty years and thought I knew all I needed. However, I have found that I learn something new and improve my marksmanship skills with every event I have attended. Besides it is a lot of fun!

Where can I learn more? Go to <https://appleseedinfo.org> or enter **Project Appleseed** in your browser to learn more about the project, as well as to sign up for this event. If you have problems or questions, or you would like to learn more, you can reach out to me, Bruce Gosling at bgosling123@gmail.com

REMEMBER: EYE AND EAR PROTECTION IS REQUIRED ON ALL RANGES
 ALSO: THE FRONT GATE IS TO BE LOCKED BEHIND YOU WHEN ENTERING OR LEAVING, EXCEPT FOR ORGANIZED ACTIVITY TIMES

Financial News: as of April BOD Meeting 2026

Checking Account \$ 97,974.37	Trans Acct \$ 12,480.89
Emergency CD \$ 61,488.40	Excess CD \$ 21,103.40
Storm CD Rec'd \$ 132,522.71	Third CD \$ 24,500.00

Membership Status: As of last Board MeetingTotal paid member households **775**

If there is a change in your address or you know someone who is not getting their newsletter, call 269-341-5930 and leave a message and corrected information. Thank you.

New Members - May (7)

Brendon Andaverde	Centreville, MI
Daniel R DuMont	Sturgis, MI
Tim Fry	Sturgis, MI
Daniel Leis	Sturgis, MI
Hugh Jeremiah Poling	Mendon, MI
Brian Keith Wheeler	Three Rivers, MI
Ryan Kershner	Three Rivers, MI

4-H Round Up

4-H Shotgun (Trap & Skeet) is on Tuesday evenings from 6 pm to 8 pm.



4-H Archery is held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm



4-H Riflery, BB Gun is on Thursday evenings from 5 pm to 7pm (note below)
Rifle Range is Closed during these times.

Looking Ahead

★ **Last Chance "500-Doubles and 100-Singles" ATA Trap Shoot.**

Sunday, **Aug 30** will be our next **ATA trap shoot**. This shoot is essentially a Doubles marathon having up to 500-Doubles targets, and a Singles (16 yard) trap event of 100 targets running concurrently. Food, trophies, and fun! See next month for details!

**The Conservation Club Pledge**

**I give my pledge as an American
to save and faithfully defend from waste,
the natural resources of my country
- its air, soil, and minerals,
its forests, waters, and wildlife.**

Quarterly Member Meetings: Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Jeff Brazo	689-0200*
Vice President	Paul Hassenger	625-4668
Executive Secretary	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Treasurer	Tom McLaughlin	506-3361
Recording Secretary	Leslie York	483-6803

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

District #1	Jammie Mosser	823-3564
	Butch Rieck (574)	903-7041
District #2	Mark Speicher (574)	361-5847
	Joel Weeks	788-4946
District #3	Benson Baumeister	221-0288
	Randy Crandall	808-6730
District #4	Sean Neely (260)	350-1901
	Tom Featherstone	718-8392
Dir. At Large	Valo Christensen	369-3603

Dist #1: Flowerfield, Park, Fabius & Lockport Townships
Dist #2: Mendon, Leonidas, Nottawa & Colon Townships
Dist #3: Constantine, Florence, Mottville & White Pigeon TWP's
Dist #4: Sherman, Burr Oak, Sturgis & Fawn River Townships
At Large: All areas outside of St Joseph County

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN**Membership and Administrative Activities**

Newsletter & Website	Leslie York	483-6803
Advertising (Newsletter)	Leslie York	483-6803
Public Relations & Fair Sign-up	Jim Perlberg (313)	310-4897
NRA Recruiter	Leslie York	483-6803
MUCC Region 7	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086
Finance Chair	Tom McLaughlin	506-3361
Nominating Chair	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Calendar of Events	Leslie York	483-6803
Hunter Education	Mark Quirin	503-0191
CPL Instruction	Jeff Brazo	689-0200

Weekly / League Activities

Trap & Skeet	Larry & Leslie York	464-6895
Trap - Tues	Bill Thompson	290-5798
5 Stand Sporting Clays	Joel Weeks	788-4946
Archery	Larry Murray	832-2816
Cowboy Action	John Daniels (574)	349-3764
IDPA Defensive Pistol	Open	689-0200
Combat Carbine, High Power	Jay Baker	532-4445
PRS22, NRL22 Rifle Leagues	Gary Kondek (574)	274-3694
Lower Range	Andy Rockwell (260)	668-9317
Youth SCTP Shotgun	Leslie York	483-6803
Youth SASP Pistol & Rifle	Mike Ortman	625-1918
Youth 4-H	Nelson Schug (248)	379-8654

Executive Secretary:

Kathy Crandall
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091
269-341-5930

**All area codes 269 unless noted*

Officers, Directors, E-mail Listings

Jay Baker (High Power, Combat Carbine)	keplerdog@outlook.com
Benson Baumeister (Dist 3 Director)	bbaumeister92@gmail.com
Kathy Crandall (Exec. Sec)	kmcrandall1952@gmail.com
Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director)	kmc52ran@aol.com
John Daniels (Cowboy Action)	johndaniels@imcaa.com
Tom Featherstone (Dist 4 Director)	tommytwofingers1894@gmail.com
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Paul Hassenger (Vice President)	phassenger@yahoo.com
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Gary Kondek (.22 Shoots)	gary.kondek@yahoo.com
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St. Joseph Co. Conservation
& Sportsman Club, Inc.
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The Second Amendment

*A well regulated militia being necessary to the
security of a free state, the right of the people to
keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.*

PLEASE NOTICE

The St Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc., has a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization status. Under this rule, donations to the club are **not** deductible on your individual taxes as charitable contributions.

APPLICATION FOR NRA MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the NRA obtained through our club benefits us in that the NRA returns part of your fee to us, and benefits you because you pay a reduced membership fee because of belonging to a member club.

☐ **Renew** my NRA membership: NRA member # _____

☐ **New Member**, please sign me up as a new NRA member:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Birthdate: _____

Club Rate: **\$35** per year. **Make check payable to NRA:** \$ _____

Magazine Choice: (circle one):

American Rifleman or American Hunter

Mail to: Leslie J York, club NRA recruiter
17101 Tomahawk Trail
White Pigeon, MI 49099

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ST JOSEPH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN CLUB Inc.

I respectfully apply for membership in the St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club, Inc. I certify that by signing this application I am a person 18 Years of age or older, who accepts the Purposes and Objectives of the Corporation and agrees to promote the same, and has complied with the requisites of membership as provided in these Bylaws. I further give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country; its air, soil, minerals, forest, water and its wildlife. I understand that to become eligible to join, I must be recommended by a club member in good standing, or personally inform the Board of Directors why I wish to be a member. (please, print clearly)

Full Name _____ Birth Date _____

Spouse _____ Birth Date _____

_____ Check if spouse desires a membership Card (**Add \$5 for this second gate card**)

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (Print) _____

Recommended By _____

Area (s) of Interest: Range Work Parties _____; Committees _____; Club Board _____; Maintenance _____

New member application fee: **\$130***

*subject to change

Renewal Dues (after 1st full year): **\$105***

*subject to change

Total Amount enclosed \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail application and Check to: St. Joseph County Conservation
& Sportsman Club
C/O Kathy Crandall
P.O. Box 339 Sturgis MI 49091

Membership subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting. **After Board Approval New Member Information Packages are handed out at the mandatory New Member Orientation**, to be scheduled within 30-days. Club Newsletters start within 60 days.