

Michigan Hunters Urged To Hunt Safely, Have Increased Awareness of Wildlife Diseases

As more than 900,000 Michigan hunters go afield this fall in search of their favorite quarry, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges them to hunt safely and to take necessary precautions when handling and processing wild game. Hunters should know the associated risks of various wildlife diseases as well as the strides taken by the DNR and other state agencies in Michigan to reduce the potential problems associated with diseased wildlife, especially as it relates to the fall deer hunt.

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Has Declined 71 Percent

In 2005, bovine TB was found in 16 white-tailed deer from five Michigan counties, all in the northeast corner of the Lower Peninsula. Statewide, 7,361 deer were tested. Since testing began in 1995, 523 deer have been found positive from more than 145,000 deer surveyed.

The best news is that the prevalence rate shows the number of TB-positive deer is decreasing. In fact, the average rate of infected animals has declined 71 percent since first detection more than a decade ago.

Still, every hunter, in particular those hunting in the special regulation unit areas, should continue to be vigilant for any signs of this disease in deer. Deer with severe TB may have tan or yellow lumps lining the chest wall and in the lung tissue. If you see a deer with this type of infection, contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined.

Hunters also are urged to submit their deer for testing if it was taken in Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Iosco, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, or Roscommon counties. See the 2006 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Not Found in Michigan

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has not been found in Michigan. This state's success in preventing and responding to the threat of CWD is underpinned by rigorous surveillance, strong public education efforts, and responsive scientific laboratory support. To date, nearly 19,000 deer, elk, and moose have been tested for CWD in Michigan, and all have tested negative.

Although Michigan is taking several steps to prevent the occurrence of CWD in the state, it has been discovered in states as near as Wisconsin and Illinois. Because nine other states and two Canadian provinces also have confirmed the presence of CWD, hunters importing deer and elk from these areas must follow rules that are spelled out in the Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide (page 21). Testing of deer or elk killed in those CWD-positive locations is mandatory, and hunters who are notified of a test-positive animal are

required to contact the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab at (517) 336-5030 within 48 hours.

Avian Influenza Has Not Been Found in North America

Birds can carry many types of diseases, including flu virus, but recently a more serious type of influenza has emerged. The technical name for this specific flu strain is Asian H5N1, but is commonly known as avian influenza (AI). It also is known as bird flu and emerged in Southeast Asia where wild birds and people get the diseases from infested birds. It has spread to other countries, but has not been found in North America.

Earlier this year, the DNR began a monitoring program to test migratory birds for the disease. To date, more than 200 birds have been tested, including ducks, geese, swans, and shorebirds. Although there have been no positives from testing for the infectious type A virus, hunters should use hygiene precautions.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis Is Transmitted by Mosquitoes

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is transmitted by mosquitoes, much like West Nile Virus. There is a human health risk to EEE, as humans who are bitten by mosquitoes carrying the disease can become fatally ill. However, EEE is much rarer in humans than West Nile Virus, with the last human cases in Michigan reported in 2002 (six cases, no fatalities) and the last reported fatality in 2001. It is unlikely, but possible, that a person could become infected with EEE by getting brain and spinal cord matter from an infected deer in their eyes, lungs, or in skin wounds.

The greatest EEE risk facing hunters is exposure to mosquitoes, not handling or consuming normal appearing deer from infected areas. Although other mammals and birds have been exposed to the EEE virus for decades, there is no evidence that direct contact with these species can infect humans. Though human infection is rare, citizens are urged to take extra precautions against EEE by taking action to reduce mosquito populations, using insect repellents for personal protection from bites, and using protective clothing.

Hunters in Kent and Montcalm counties are again urged to use extra caution against mosquito bites during this year's hunting seasons by observing the basic safety measures.

Hunters Should Avoid Mosquito Bites To Guard Against West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a potentially serious illness. Experts believe WNV is established as a seasonal epidemic that flares up in summer and continues into fall. As with EEE, the best way to avoid illness is to avoid mosquito bites.

If a hunter is bitten by an infested mosquito, symptoms generally will develop three to 14 days after the bite occurs. In cases with



Outdoor Matters

A column from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

milder symptoms, people experience fever and aches that pass on their own. In more severe cases, hospital care is required.

Hunters, especially those older than 50, should take precautions to prevent mosquito bites by using repellents, keeping skin covered, and treating insect bites with anti-septic.

All Tick-Borne Illnesses Can Be Treated With Antibiotics

Tick-borne illnesses, which are a potential threat in Michigan, include Lyme Disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, and Ehrlichiosis. Ticks are significant carriers of pathogens that can cause human illness. In Michigan, these dis-

eases are rare, but they do occur and can be serious if not properly diagnosed and treated. All illness that originates with a tick bite can be treated with antibiotics. Patients and domestic animals treated in the early stages with short courses of antibiotics usually recover rapidly and completely.

Small mammals are a preferred host for ticks; but birds, reptiles, and large mammals also can harbor the various stages of the tick. Check hunting dogs regularly and if cleaning a deer or other game, always wear gloves and check your clothing and hair after processing is done.

Ticks can attach to any part of the human body, but prefer body

creases and areas with hair. Ticks should be removed using fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick by the head as close to the skin as possible, then gently but firmly pull it straight out. Wash the bite right away with soap and water, then apply an antiseptic to the wound.

Expert tick identification is available at a number of state agencies. For testing for most tick-related diseases, contact your local health department for a tick submission kit.

Do Not Handle or Consume Animals That Appear To Be Sick

Hunters should not handle or consume wild animals that appear sick or act abnormally, regardless of the cause. Always wear heavy rubber or latex gloves when field dressing wild game. If intestinal contents contact meat, consider that meat contaminated and cut it off, then discard.

Proper carcass care in the field

is vital to preserving wild game. Big-game animals should be field dressed immediately to cool the carcass and then hung by the head to allow the body cavity to drain thoroughly. In warm weather, carcass cooling can be hastened and maintained by bags of ice placed directly into the body cavity. Protect the carcass from flies.

Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling meat. Sanitize equipment and work surfaces thoroughly.

Always cook venison and other wild meat until it is no longer pink and the juices run clear. If cooked in this manner, the likelihood of any disease transmission to individuals consuming the meat is extremely small.

Wildlife disease is something we all must be aware of and work together to prevent. For more information, visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases.

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Governor Granholm Eats Pasties, Talks Tourism

Michigan, after sadly lagging in its tourist promotion budget in recent years, tripled efforts this year to \$20 million. Governor Jennifer Granholm says another \$10 million is needed.

Whenever I encounter governors and their challengers on northern trails, I ask about such economic matters. So it was last week in joining Granholm at Cousin Jenny's Gourmet Cornish Pasties in Traverse City. (Governor Jenny is a pasty fan but has no tie to the establishment, founded 27 years ago by Jerilyn DeBoer of Iron Mountain.)

It was, in fact, on a northern trip last year that Granholm revealed that she was shuffling funds to boost tourist promotion in order to advertise in southern Ontario, Milwaukee, and Cincinnati beyond existing Midwest efforts. She said last week:

"We have \$15 million from the 21st Century Fund, and another \$5 million from our general fund. It really should be about \$30 million. We should (have) a nationwide investment. We just need to broaden the appeal."

With just about a month to go before the election, Granholm and challenger Dick DeVos are spending most of their campaign time in downstate population centers.

But their unprecedented TV advertising is statewide, already totaling nearly \$26 million, including nearly \$3 million in northern Michigan.

According to figures compiled by the nonpartisan Michigan Campaign Finance Network, DeVos has spent \$1,432,080 on stations covering the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula, and \$465,086 in the western U.P. Totals in the two markets for combined spending by Granholm and the Michigan

Democratic Party are \$629,025 and \$332,851.

Debate Agreements

Granholm and DeVos agreed last week to three live, prime-time TV debates in October as well as the traditional joint luncheon appearance before the Detroit Economic Club. But as of this writing, a public TV prime time appearance at a date to be determined was the only televised debate agreed upon by Senator Debbie Stabenow and challenger Mike Bouchard.

Stabenow and Bouchard, Oakland County sheriff, also will do an Economic Club forum. Before their agreement for a WGTV-TV debate in Grand Rapids, there was some fowl play. Bouchard's camp called Stabenow "chicken" in a letter delivered by someone dressed as one. Also, GOP State Chairman Saul Anuzis appeared at Stabenow's headquarters with a live duck.

Stunts aside, there should be more than one televised debate in a race that so far has had little media attention.

Fly-In for Bouchard

Could it be the biggest two-day airlift of U.S. Senators in Michigan campaign history? Eight of them are scheduled to campaign this month for Bouchard's uphill challenge of Stabenow.

Senator John McCain of Arizona, who won Michigan's 2000 Republican presidential primary and is gearing for a possible White House bid in 2008, plans an October 10 fundraiser in Grand Rapids for Bouchard, as well as events for state House Republicans and for Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

On October 11, seven freshmen senators are to campaign with Bouchard: Senators Mel Martinez of Florida, Johnny

Isakson of Georgia, David Vitter of Louisiana, Richard Burr of North Carolina, Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, Jim DeMint of South Carolina, and John Thune of South Dakota.

McCain, meanwhile, has announced that 10 Republican state senators have signed on to help run his Straight Talk America political action committee in Michigan. Among them are Jason Allen of Traverse City and Michelle McManus of Lake Leelanau.

Timber Industry Gets Help

Granholm last week signed six GOP-sponsored bills that she said "will continue the state's efforts to modernize management policies for the state's forestland, help create jobs in the timber industry, and protect and keep access available to the state's natural resources enjoyed by hunters, fishermen, and outdoor enthusiasts."

Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial Time Capsule Dedicated to Those Who Served

The deadline has been extended to Sunday, October 15, for veterans to submit information to a time capsule dedicated to military veterans from the Upper Peninsula.

The Marine Corps League Iron Mountain Detachment 1239 has placed a 100-year time capsule at the base of the Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial on top of the Pine Mountain Ski Hill in Iron Mountain. The time capsule will be dedicated to all veterans born in the Upper Peninsula who enlisted or were drafted and served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The memorial was officially dedicated July 1 to all veterans of the Upper Peninsula, starting with the Vietnam era veterans. Monuments to veterans of other eras will be added later.

Information required includes name, rank, branch of service, and dates served. Medals and information such as Missing in Action, Prisoner of War, Killed in Action may be included. If the veteran is a Native American, that may be noted, also.

Names will be sealed into the

time capsule and interred November 11 (Veterans Day), 2006. The time capsule will be opened July 4, 2106, when the names of the veterans of the Upper Peninsula will be viewed. The list of names will then be returned to the counties from which they were submitted.

For inclusion, a veteran need only to verify that he or she was honorably discharged with a copy of the DD214 or a certificate of Honorable Discharge. If the veteran belongs to a veterans organization, he or she can have all information required verified by the Post Commander. To include a deceased veteran's name, families will be required to verify an Honorable Discharge along with the other information required.

All copies of a DD214 or Honorable Discharge Certificate submitted will be destroyed in view of four witnesses November 1.

To submit names, mail the required information before October 1 to the following address: MCL Iron Mountain Detachment 1239, Adjutant / Paymaster, 1045 Cox Street, Quinnesec, Michigan 49876.

U.P. Businesses Invited to Fall Forum

A Fall Forum in human resources, training, and wellness is planned for all Upper Peninsula businesses and organizations Friday, October 20, in Marquette. The forum will take place from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Don H. Bottum University Center on Northern Michigan University's campus.

The workshop is sponsored by the Upper Peninsula Human Resources Association, Superiorland Chapter of Human Resource Professionals, U.P. Training Network, and the Wellness Council of the Upper Peninsula.

Registration fees of \$60, or \$50 for members of the sponsoring organizations, will be collected at the door. For more informa-

tion, call Susan MacGregor at (906) 228-0001.

The keynote speaker will be Steven Aldana, Ph.D., author, special advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and regular consultant to the Centers for Disease Control and National Institute on Health. In addition to the keynote address, 11 other seminars are planned.

For the Record...

In last's week's story on the new hospital in St. Ignace, a fundraising reception on Mackinac Island was said to be October 18, when, in fact, it will be Friday, October 13.

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

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The quotation under the flag of *The St. Ignace News* on Page 1 is from the 10 triads written by Dr. Fred Newton Scott, creator and teacher of the first continuous course in journalism in the United States at the University of Michigan in 1890. The 10 triads are chiseled on the parapet of the Detroit News Building at 615 Lafayette Boulevard, Detroit. They were headed "Ideals of the Press" or "The Newspaper in a Free Society," and serve as a reminder of what a free press means to us.

St. Ignace News Policies

Letters:

All responsible letters will be considered for publication and may be edited. They must be signed and a telephone number must be included for verification. Personal thank-you notes, personal attacks against other people, form letters, and letters promoting political candidates are not accepted, although letters for or against ballot proposals are welcome.

Obituaries:

The St. Ignace News maintains a policy of not charging for obituaries and we sometimes add information or rewrite them for clarity and reader interest. Obituaries that the family wants published exactly as submitted can be placed in the newspaper for \$75. Photographs are welcome at no charge.

Weddings:

Weddings with photographs are published without charge within 45 days of the ceremony. After 45 days, a photograph can be included for \$32.80.

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