

Season Preview: Several New Opportunities Available to Big Game Hunters This Year



Outdoor Matters

A column from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Prospects for the 2008-2009 hunting seasons are excellent, according to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials, with several new opportunities available to big-game hunters this year.

Changes in licensing requirements allow first-time hunters the ability to purchase an apprentice license without having completed hunter education first. The apprentice license allows a new hunter the opportunity to participate for two seasons with a mentor before completing hunter education. Otherwise, anyone born after January 1, 1960, is required to have a hunter education certificate to buy a license.

Youngsters can begin hunting small game at 10 years of age with a firearm, or deer with bow; youngsters must be 12 to hunt deer or bear with a firearm. Firearm deer hunters 12 and 13 years of age are restricted to private-land hunting only.

Youths 10 to 16 years old also

can participate in a youth deer hunt September 27 and September 28. For more details, see the 2008 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide, which can be found online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Bear

Season: Bear licenses are issued, by lottery, for specific time periods and geographical areas. Hunting on the mainland in the Upper Peninsula runs from September 10 to October 26. On Drummond Island, the season is September 10 to October 21. In the northern Lower Peninsula, the Red Oak Management Unit is open September 19 to September 25 and again – but this time for bow and arrow only – October 5 to October 11. The north area of the Baldwin unit opens September 12; the remainder of the unit opens September 19, and the season runs through September 25. The Gladwin unit is open September 19 to September 25.

Outlook: Bear hunting is excellent in Michigan, with an estimat-



Raccoons are abundant throughout the state, although they are partial to hardwood forests, especially along waterways. Wood lots adjoining agricultural fields are particularly productive early in the season. Raccoons typically are hunted at night with hounds.

ed bear population of 15,000 to 19,000 animals in the northern two-thirds of the state. In the Upper Peninsula, the population appears to be stable to increasing. In the northern Lower Peninsula, the population appears to be stable, although animals continue to range farther south. Hunters using hounds are not allowed during the first five days of the season in the Upper Peninsula. Wildlife officials anticipate a typical harvest of slightly more than 2,000 bear this fall.

Elk

Season: August 26 to August 29



Despite liberal hunting regulations, including an early firearm antlerless deer season in September, deer numbers in southern Michigan continue to be well above the management goal. The DNR encourages all deer hunters who hunt in this region to purchase and use antlerless licenses this fall to help manage the herd by taking adult does. (DNR photographs by David Kenyon)

and September 12 to September 16 in designated elk management units and December 9 to December 16 in all of the state's elk range in Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. A special hunt may be held January 15 to January 19, 2009, in agricultural areas if biologists determine the earlier hunts yielded an inadequate harvest to meet population goals. A total of 330 permits, issued by lottery, were available this year;

one-third for the first hunt, two-thirds for the second hunt, and in a similar ratio for any elk (bull or cow) or antlerless-only animals.

Outlook: As a result of refinements in its elk census techniques, the DNR estimates the fall elk herd is more than 1,100 animals, above the state management goal of 800 to 900 animals going into the season. Based on this population, additional hunters received licenses this year, which will result in significantly increasing the harvest. Wildlife officials project an excellent season.

Deer

Season: New this year is a five-day antlerless-only firearms season on private land only in all of Zone 3 (southern Lower Peninsula) and in six counties of the northeastern Lower Peninsula. The early firearm antlerless season was held

September 18 to September 22. Archery season is October 1 to November 14 and December 1 to January 1. Firearms season is November 15 to November 30. A late antlerless-only firearms season on private land is slated for December 22 to January 1 in most of Zone 3. Muzzleloader seasons are December 5 to December 14 in the Upper Peninsula, December 12 to December 21 in the northern Lower Peninsula, and December 5 to December 21 in the southern Lower Peninsula. A special youth and 100%-disabled veterans deer hunt is scheduled for September 27 to September 28, and a special firearms hunt for hunters with certain disabilities is planned for October 16 to October 19. The season limit is no more than two bucks. Hunters may purchase up to five antlerless deer licenses, although no more than two may be for the northern two-thirds of the state. New this year, Upper Peninsula hunters who wish to take two bucks will be required to buy the combination license and the tags will be restricted to a buck with at least three antler points on one side and a buck with at least four antler points on one side.

Outlook: An estimated 700,000 hunters will take to Michigan's fields and forests this year, enjoying more than 10 million days of outdoor recreation. The deer population is estimated to be similar to slightly larger than it was last year, when hunters took about 476,000 whitetails. Roughly half that harvest comes from the southern third of the state and officials expect

Turn to page 9: DNR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Downtown Store Staff Is Knowledgeable, Helpful to Visitors

To the Editor:

In response to Deb Evashevski's comments in the September 18 issue of *The St. Ignace News* about the business employees not having the knowledge of the city or its criteria, I beg to differ with you. I work for a very prominent business, which has been here for many, many years, and I happen to be a supervisor of that business. I have a few people working under me, and I have to say, I have very informative workers that are constantly telling our customers where to go, what to do, where the best eating is, where the attractions are, etc., etc., and if they can't find an item at our business, we direct them where to go. Tourists have expressed their gratitude many times for our hospitality and said they would be back, even if they ask what is a pasty, or a yoooper, or what time will the bridge swing over to the Island. We have answers and will not let anyone go unattended, so please, when you speak about us not having knowledge, be definite in who you are speaking of.

Lisa Bigelow
Supervisor of Indian Village
St. Ignace

If Visitors Need Help, Why Are Tourism Agencies Closed on Weekends?

To the Editor:

It was a like a slap on the face to read the article published in the September 18 issue of *The St. Ignace News*. It mentioned a couple of

complaints about unknowledgeable clerks and their possibly needing training. I feel you are not looking at the whole picture. I think the city needs to look at other areas.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors Bureau are closed on weekends. Tourists that come to the area go into stores and complain that they are closed. So just maybe that unknowledgeable clerk could have had an avenue to send them to. The weekends are the busiest weekends around here. We have the car show, Fourth of July, Labor Day, truck show, etc. with bigger crowds, all on weekends. To man the Chamber of Commerce or the Visitors Bureau would take more money, but having answers to questions may make people spend more money in the area.

Another thing to take a look at is, part of our workers in town are foreigners, college students (from all over), or young school kids. They either do not speak well, or do not know the area, or are just starting their first job. There is nothing against any of these people, but are all other reasons for the lack of knowledge for the area. You do get what you pay for.

I have had rude customer service recently; in fact, I will not go back to the city I vacationed at because of the rudeness I encountered at all of the businesses. So yes, maybe the couple of rude unknowledgeable clerks/owners need to have some customer service training. Your story was a slap in the face to the many good workers downtown.

People are so quick to let you know all your mistakes, but seem to forget to praise you for what you do right. Take a step back and look at the whole picture of all the issues. If you work on all the issues plaguing this city, it will make it a better place to visit and live.

Lana Lennington
St. Ignace

Vote No on Proposal 2

To the Editor:

On the November 4 ballot, you will have the opportunity to vote "No" on Proposal 2, the Human Embryo Proposal.

Proposal 2 allows unrestricted science on human embryos and any research involving stem cells.

This is a proposed constitutional amendment, which means if researchers think any state or local law restricts, discourages, or creates disincentives to their research, they can ignore the law. The legislature will have no ability to regulate anything related to stem cell research.

Please join me in voting "No" on Proposal 2 November 4.

Jackie Bolander
Mackinac Island

The St. Ignace News

and Les Cheneaux Islands Weekly Wave

359 Reagon Street, PO Box 277, Saint Ignace, MI 49781
Telephone (906) 643-9150 • Facsimile (906) 643-9122
www.SaintIgnaceNews.com

USPS Periodical Publication Number - 462-380

ESTABLISHED 1878

Published each Thursday at Saint Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan

Entered in Saint Ignace, Michigan Post Office as Periodical Mail Matter, Act of March 3, 1879
Periodical Postage Paid at Saint Ignace, MI • Additional Postage Paid at Gaylord, MI

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Ignace News, PO Box 277, St. Ignace, MI 49781

Volume 129, Number 26 Thursday, October 2, 2008

Publisher/Editor

Wesley H. Maurer, Jr.

Associate Publisher

Mary R. Maurer

Publisher 1975-1995

Wesley H. Maurer, Sr. (1897-1995)

Editor

Ellen Paquin, news@saintignacenews.com

Staff Writers

Ryan Schlehuder, ryan@saintignacenews.com

Karen Gould, karen@saintignacenews.com

Paul Gingras, paul@saintignacenews.com

Advertising Department

Tammy Matson, David Movalson

ads@saintignacenews.com

Print Shop Manager

Sherry Cece

Circulation Manager

Wendy Colegrove



Subscriptions:
\$42 in Mackinac, Chippewa, Emmet, Luce, and Cheboygan counties.
\$52 elsewhere in the United States and military post offices.
\$35 for the Web edition at www.saintignacenews.com

We take Visa, MasterCard, and Discover

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 do often 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 \$35.00.

Internet:

The complete edition of The St. Ignace News is available online at stignacenews.com.

Contact:

The St. Ignace News
359 Reagon Street
PO Box 277
Saint Ignace, MI 49781
(906) 643-9150 (phone)
(906) 643-9122 (fax)
e-mail: news@stignacenews.com

Michigan Politics

By
George Weeks



Tourism Promotion: Ace in the Hole

Times are tough, especially in Michigan, long No. 1 in joblessness and other gauges of economic distress. That's all the more reason that there must be sustained funding for promotion of our economic ace in the hole — tourism.

Although funding has fluctuated in recent years, there was encouraging unity in Lansing last week behind an effort to tout tourism.

The Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association, at its annual conference attended by about 250, drummed up support on the day that the Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing on a bill by Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) for sustaining the \$30 million annual "Pure Michigan" ad spending level getting underway by the Granholm administration.

Allen and Governor Jennifer Granholm are not in sync on many issues. But they are allied in support of Travel Michigan's ad campaign that was described September 8 in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, "with its evocative copy and inviting musical underscoring," as a pitch that "soars above all other tourism ad campaigns in the Midwest."

Michigan's pitch for fall color tours invites visitors to see "colors that didn't come from a paint can" as "the curtain rises on nature's greatest show, as the 19 million acres of woods called Michigan slowly explodes in a frenzy of color."

Such soaring spiels have earned Michigan several accolades. The Travel Industry Association of America gave its awards to Pure Michigan for best state radio and TV ads. The state's travel Web site (www.michigan.org) came in second place behind Virginia in a survey to determine the nation's best state travel Web site.

Awards and evocative copy mean little if the weather does not cooperate — and it did not early in the summer season.

But after a slow start, including a decline in Mackinac Bridge crossings compared to last year as well as state campground bookings and visits to the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, tourism later picked up in the Upper Peninsula and the northern lower.

Nonetheless, the *Detroit Free Press*, noting that it's tough to combat a weak economy and high gas prices that deter travel, reported September 13: "Hotel occupancy in Michigan is still the weakest in the nation."

As for the ripple effect of tourism, President James P. Hallan of the Michigan Retailers Association said: "In many respects, the prosperity of Michigan is linked to tourism. ...When tourism is vibrant, the hospitality and retail industries thrive." And the state treasury benefits.

That was a point made last week in Lansing by Allen, President Steve Yencich of the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association, and such travel industry leaders as President Dan Musser of Mackinac Island's Grand Hotel.

Allen cited a study indicating that for every dollar spent to promote tourism, about three are generated "in terms of economic activity and in state revenue." Good return on investment is a strong argument in these times of economic woes.

Under Allen's bill, after the money received from Michigan's six percent sales tax goes to schools and other mandated recipients, Travel Michigan would get a guaranteed percentage that amounts to about \$30 million.

Despite budget crises, funding for "Pure Michigan" increased to \$13.2 million for 2006-07; to \$17.5 million for 2007-08, and goes to \$30 million for the 2008-09 fiscal year beginning October 1.

Michigan this year was able for the first time to advertise on a national network — NBC during the PGA golf tournament — and advertised in such markets as Chicago, St. Louis, and Cleveland.

As legislators consider Allen's bill for sustained funding for such ads, they should keep in mind that when tourism is vibrant, others thrive.

George Weeks retired in 2006 after 22 years as political columnist for *The Detroit News*. His weekly *Michigan Politics* column is syndicated by *Superior Features*.