



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

23640 Featherstone Rd, PO Box 339, Sturgis, MI 49091

Telephone (269) 467-7128

Home Page: <http://www.conservationclub.us>



Volume Seventy-three, Issue 5

May 2020

Meeting Notes

- **Membership Meeting**
7 PM Monday, June 8
- Board Meeting 7 PM
Monday, May 18

Memorial Day

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Brief Club History
1937-1997 (Insert)

Michigan Zone 6 ATA Trap Shoot June 6/7

This 2-day ATA shoot is still scheduled for June 6 and 7 at our Club providing the *Stay Safe, Stay at Home* Executive Order is lifted or modified to allow the Club to reopen to the public by June. This is the first 2-day registered trap shoot our Club is holding in recent memory and may be the first time we've ever held a Michigan Zone shoot at the Club. Help will be needed for such things as scoring, loading clay targets in houses, as relief helpers, kitchen helpers, and other things. If we could get a crew for Saturday June 6 and another crew for Sunday June 7 we could spread out the work and not overtax anyone (*except the Trap Directors!*).

The program for Saturday is 100 Singles Targets, 100 Handicap Targets, and 100 Doubles Targets. Sunday's event is the 200 Championship Singles. We plan on having food both days. There are trophies for all events on both days.

Michigan is broken up into Zones and our region is designated as Zone 6. Any ATA shooter can shoot in the event but only Zone 6 members can win the Michigan Trapshooting Association (MTA) awards on Sunday's Championship event, although there will also be Club sponsored trophies for this event that are open to all shooters regardless of Zone or State of residence.

If you can spare a few hours on either Saturday June 6 or Sunday June 7 for this great Club opportunity to showcase our trap facility, please contact either Leslie York 269-483-6803 (email trapgeek2010@gmail.com) or Larry York 269-464-6895 (email larry.york54@gmail.com). Hope to see you all out on the trap range soon!

Rescheduled Events & Activities

- The May Fortress Defense has tentatively been moved to June 6 & 7, pending Board approval.
- The Club Youth Trap Program plans on resuming practices on Tuesday, May 5 as A.I.M. Youth Trap. 4-H is canceled and SCTP is suspended until June, at a minimum. The High School Clay Target Program practices are canceled since in-person school has been canceled for the rest of the school year.
- The March ATA Shoot is planned to be rescheduled to the summer or fall if possible. The April ATA shoot is not being rescheduled.
- Southwest Michigan Friends of the NRA Fundraising Banquet has been moved to Saturday Oct 3.

Please contact Leslie York at 269-483-6803 or trapgeek2010@gmail.com for changes to activities for updating the Club's on-line calendar.

The Stafford Act

The info below is from John Farnam of Defense Training International, via his frequent "Quips" commentary (which you can sign on to receive at www.defensive-training.com):

"Those of us who are guilty of better planning and are thus armed, trained, and prepared need to be reminded that federal law, specifically the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, amended in 2019 (passed in the wake of the Katrina disaster in 2005), aka The Stafford Act, protects American gun-owners from having their legally-possessed guns impounded or "registered." Nor may authorities prohibit the otherwise legal bearing of arms by citizens"

With so many states and locals taking advantage of COVID-19 to limit our 2A rights, this is important to remember!

Submitted by Jeff Brazo

Please Refer to the on-line Calendar for up-to-date information on Club activities and cancelations. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 executive orders from Michigan Governor Whitmer, planned activities may change with very short notice. Stay Safe!

UPCOMING EVENTS

These events are subject to any extension of the stay at home orders!

May 4: DH 101
 May 9: CPL Class
 May 9: NRL22
 May 11: DH 102
 May 16: IDPA
 May 17: Cowboy Action
 May 18: DH 103
 May 18: Board Meeting
 June 6-7: ATA Shoot Zone 6
 June 6-7: Fortress Defense (pending)

MUCC Suit Requests Immediate Injunction Against Criminalization of Motorized Boating

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) filed a complaint in United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan on Sunday challenging the criminal prohibition against motorboat use recently announced by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

The complaint alleges Whitmer and Department of Natural Resources Director Daniel Eichinger's application of EO 2020-42 to prohibit motorboat use is unconstitutional. The order itself was enacted on April 9 by Whitmer and expressly allows "outdoor physical activity," including activities similar to kayaking and canoeing. The order makes no mention of prohibiting the outdoor activity of boating. However, in response to "Frequently Asked Questions," the Governor and DNR have opined that motorboat use is not an allowed form of "outdoor physical activity."

In fact, the governor and DNR have taken the position that all motorboat use anywhere in the state, regardless of waterbody, number of boaters or adherence to social distancing protocols, is criminal. Law enforcement is now enforcing the FAQs, including issuing criminal charges. On April 16, after an overwhelming amount of member communications, the MUCC Executive Board voted to pursue legal action in the matter. Aaron Phelps, a partner with Varnum LLP in Grand Rapids, was retained.

"Decisions by the MUCC Executive Board and staff did not come easy and were not taken lightly. Countless hours of deliberations, sleepless nights, a member survey and consultations played a role in this decision," said MUCC Executive Director Amy Trotter. "MUCC members, our friends and our families have been greatly impacted by this virus, and we mourn the losses to our great state."

The complaint is requesting an immediate injunction of the blanket prohibition on motorized boating. "Michigan anglers and recreational boaters have a constitutional right to clear and unambiguous rules, especially when violation of those rules can be criminally charged," Phelps said. "Citizens cannot be subject to criminal penalties based on arbitrary interpretations of a unilateral order or, worse, vague responses to so-called frequently asked questions." Trotter said there have been attempts to label this as a partisan effort. "This litigation would not be brought forward if it did not include a sound policy argument," Trotter said. "Attempts to cast this as emotionally- or politically-driven are baseless." Whitmer's office and the DNR have leaned heavily on the argument that motorboats require gasoline and further risk the spread of novel coronavirus. However, electric motors are also banned, and gas-powered, off-road recreational vehicles are still allowed on trails across the state. Kayakers and canoers, in many cases, also need gasoline to haul their crafts to a body of water and utilize the same boat access sites as motorboats. Sailboats often require multiple people and motors but are allowed, according to the state's interpretation. Out-of-state anglers can travel freely to Michigan to fish. Yet, a person living on a lake cannot walk out their back door and utilize their motorboat.

MUCC has been supportive of the administration's legal closure of areas like Tippy Dam, where anglers continually were asked to social distance and conservation and law enforcement officers were met with resistance. The organization, if given a chance, will partner with the governor's office to continue communicating and helping in any way possible to ensure anglers are recreating responsibly, Trotter said.

April provides some of the most diverse Great Lakes, river, stream and inland lake fishing opportunities. *Excerpted from the MUCC email article*

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: For the month of Feb balance on hand was \$89,604.89 in checking and \$20,662.45 in pre-paid dues CD, \$78,306.58 in the Emergency CD Fund, \$3,937.35 in the raffle fund, and the Wink CD of \$28,015.70.

Membership Status: As of Jan we had a total of 848 paid member households. If you have changed your address or know of someone who is not getting their newsletter, call 269-341-5930 and leave message and corrected info.

Lost and Found

Contact **Leslie York** at 483-6803 and we will help!

OFFICERS

President	Jeff Brazo	651-9076
Vice President	Mike Philley	(574) 202-0641
Executive Secretary	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Treasurer	Laura Decker	384-9191
Recording Secretary	Leslie York	483-6803

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District #1	Kathy Book	659-4056
	Paul Hassenger	651-8447
District #2	Mark Speicher	(574) 361-5847
	Bill Thompson	279-7737
District #3	Benson Baumeister	221-0288
	Randy Crandall	808-6730
District #4	Nancy Lawrence	651-1700
	Pete Davis	651-1388
Dir. At Large	Tom Whitford	432-4070

COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN

Membership Activities		
Newsletter/Website	Leslie York	483-6803
Advertising (Newsletter)	Leslie York	483-6803
Public Relations	Jim Perlberg	(313) 310-4897
NRA Recruiter	Leslie York	483-6803
MUCC Region 7	Allen Kasdorf	651-7086

Administrative Activities		
Finance	Laura Decker	384-9191
Nominating	Kathy Crandall	341-5930
Calendar of Events	Leslie York	483-6803
Hunter Education	Jeff Brazo	651-9076
CPL Instruction	Jeff Brazo	651-9076

Fund Raising Activities		
Fair Sign-up	Nancy Lawrence	651-1700

Weekly / League Activities		
Trap/Skeet – Sunday	Larry & Leslie York	483-6803
Trap – Tues	Bill Thompson	279-7737
Skeet – Tues	Ramze Idriss	503-0404
5 Stand Sporting Clays	Larry & Leslie York	483-6803
Archery	Larry Murray	659-6005
Cowboy Action	John Daniels	(574) 349-3764
IDPA Defensive Pistol	Mike Philley	(574) 202-0641
Combat Carbine	Jay Baker	278-9553
Lower Range	Andy Rockwell	(260) 668-9317
Youth SCTP Shotgun	Leslie York	483-6803
Youth SASP Pistol Rifle	Mark Griffin	358-5643
Youth 4-H	Nelson Schug	(248) 379-8654

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

All area code 269 unless noted

Club Websites and Facebook Sites

WEB PAGE: <http://www.conservationclub.us>

IDPA: www.facebook.com/stjoecoconservationclubidpa/

Trap/skeet: www.facebook.com/stjoecountytrapandskeet/

Youth Trap: www.facebook.com/stjoecountystraightshootertrap/

Membership Meetings: Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec

Don S. Eaton
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

P. O. Box 398
164 W Chicago Rd
Sturgis, MI 49091
Bus. 269-651-7861 TF. 800-791-8586
TF Fax 888-232-8775
www.edwardjones.com

RESTROOM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Attention All Members: The club is looking at a building project to construct new restrooms and update the heating system and add air conditioning. We are looking at spring of 2021. If you are a general contractor or a licensed plumber, electrician, or mechanical contractor and would like to bid on this work, please come forward and make yourself known. You may get the scope of the project by contacting Director Paul Hassenger at phassenger@yahoo.com

MUCC Conservation 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.



Officers, Directors, E-mail Listings

Jeff Brazo (President)	pm2brazo@frontier.com
John Daniels (Cowboy Action)	johndaniels@imcaa.com
Kathy Crandall (Exec-Sec)	kmcrandall952@gmail.com
Randy Crandall (Dist 3 Director)	kmc52ran@aol.com
Pete Davis (Dist 4 Director)	pdavis@fillmoreeq.com
Benson Baumeister (Dist #3 Director)	bbaumeister92@gmail.com
Mark Griffin (SASP Director)	ffgrif@charter.net
Laura Decker (Treasurer)	culligan1@charter.net
Jim Perlberg (Pub Relations)	gunslinger6@me.com
Allen Kasdorf (MUCC)	allenkasdorf@gmail.com
Gary Kondek (.22 Shoots)	gary.kondek@yahoo.com
Nancy Lawrence (Dist 4 Director)	jlawrence1700@charter.net
Paul Hassenger (Dist 1 Director)	phassenger@yahoo.com
Larry Murray (Archery)	info@lostnationarchery.com
Mike Philley (Vice Pres. & IDPA)	mphilley60@gmail.com
Andy Rockwell (Lower Range Dir)	zrock4365@hotmail.com
Bill Thompson (Dist #2 Director)	sparkyvf96@yahoo.com
Larry York (Trap, Skeet, 5 Stand)	larry.york54@gmail.com
Leslie York (Rec. Sec, ATA, Calen/Web)	trapgeek2010@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor (Leslie York)	conservationclubeditor@gmail.com

Dist #1: Townships of Flowerfield, Park, Fabius & Lockport
Dist #2: Townships of Mendon, Leonidas, Nottawa & Colon
Dist #3: TWP of Constantine, Florence, Mottville & White Pigeon
Dist #4: Twps of Sherman, Burr Oak, Sturgis & Fawn River
AT LARGE: Areas outside of St Joseph County

St. Joseph Co. Conservation
& Sportsman Club, Inc.
PO Box 339
Sturgis, MI 49091

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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: **\$30** per year, make check payable to NRA: \$ _____

Magazine Choice: (circle one):

America's 1st Freedom American Hunter American Rifleman Shooting Illustrated

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 _____

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

Spouse _____ Birth Date _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address (Print) _____

Recommended By _____

New member application: _____ Renewal application: _____

Interest: Archery _____ Trap _____ Skeet _____ Sporting Clays _____ Rifle _____ Pistol _____ Black Powder _____ Cowboy Action _____ IDPA _____ Conservation _____ Youth Shoot Sports _____

Fee: **\$100 new member* / \$75 renewal** for family membership, **\$5 for additional Gate Card** (one card is already included) *Application Fee of \$25 for New Members only.

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 should start within 60 days.