



# THE FRONT SIGHT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICK-OWA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB  
MAY - 2007



## AREA YOUTH HEADING FOR THE STATE SHOOT



We have more than 25 area youth participating in the Michigan State SCTP Trap Shoot on Saturday, June 30, in Mason MI.

These 25+ youth have been participating in Teen Trap on Thursday and Friday nights since the beginning of February.

On Saturday, March 24 these youth participated in a Broken Bird Fundraiser to raise the necessary funds for participating in the State Shoot. We are still in need of funding for this and the many other youth programs which we run at our club.

We are still excepting team members to round out the squads of five for the state shoot.

If you know of any youth that may enjoy shooting with the Zeeland SCTP Trap Team or if you would like to make a donation to help, Please contact Tom @ (616) 772-6943

[wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)



Sara Medendorp (7) and Delanie Nienhuis (6) excited about their first two of 14 fish caught during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chick-Owa Family Fishing Tournament held on June 10, 2006

## FAMILY FISHING TOURNAMENT

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Fishing Tournament had 13 entries totaling 43 participants. Our participants included Grandparents, Parents, Aunts, Uncles, Children, and Friends.

The youngest team, pictured above, had a combined age of 13, with Sara at seven and Delani at six. Our two youngest fishermen checked in at the age of four, Jessica Brander and Austin Steenwyk.

We started with a pancake breakfast and ended our day by grilling hamburgers and hotdogs.

There was a load of fun for the whole family.

Thanks to our sponsors, there were prizes for the longest game fish, heaviest game fish, longest ugly fish, heaviest ugly fish, most total weight of fish caught by a family and a two person team, and the most number of fish caught by a family and a two person team.

Almost everyone was drawn twice before we got to the Charter Fishing Trips. All of the entries were thrown back in the bucket and we drew two lucky winners of the charters.

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY FISHING  
TOURNAMENT  
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007  
DON'T MISS IT - REGISTER NOW!**

## DURING MAY 2007

**Blue Devils Horse Platoon Qualification** on our range. This will be the first time that the U.S. Army has ever held a qualification shoot on horse back outside of a military establishment. Spectators are welcomed and encouraged from 3pm until 6pm on Monday, May 7, 2007.

**Rifle/ Pistol Range** Open Mondays from 3pm until dusk and continues every Monday until the end of October.

**Summer Trap Shooting** Open Trap shooting on Thursday evenings from 6pm to 9pm until the end of September.

## CMP CLINICS JUNE 23-JULY 21

“CMP” = “Civilian Marksmanship Program”  
The shooting takes place from the 200yd firing line with iron sights

Rifles allowed for this clinic are:

- M1 Garand
- 1903 Springfield
- M1 Carbine
- 1917 Enfield
- 1942 Johnson

For more information or to register to shoot, contact Phil Wilcox on the web at [phil@tcrgc.org](mailto:phil@tcrgc.org)

## **NRA MARKSMANSHIP QUALIFICATION PROGRAM**

Are you interested in the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program?

If you have interest in the shooting sports, you will probably have interest in this program.

The NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program is a skill development program

NRA qualification courses of fire are open to everyone – men and women, adults and youth.

The courses of fire in the qualification program are designed to take shooters from beginning skill levels, through intermediate levels, up to the nationally recognized skill level – Distinguished Expert. Some of the disciplines in this program include:

- Handgun
- Bullseye Pistol
- International Air Pistol
- International Air Rifle
- 4-position Rifle
- Light Rifle
- American Rifleman
- High Power Rifle
- Shotgun
- Muzzle Loading Firearms
- Sport Shooting

It is very important that we know the level of interest. If you have interest in this type of program being offered at our club, please contact Tom Medendorp @ (616) 772-6943

[wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)



## **2007 BOWLING PIN SHOOT**

Bowling Pin Shoots of 2007 will be held on Saturday, August 4.

The Pin Shoot runs from 10:00am until 3:00pm.

Pin shoots are a lot of fun for the entire family. Mark your calendar and make plans to be there. We could also use some additional assistance with running the shoots. If you would like to help, come to the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:30pm in the clubhouse.



## **SHOOTING SPORTS CAMP**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**WEST MICHIGAN FIREARMS EDUCATION**

**AUGUST 13 - 17**



**PARTICIPANTS WILL  
BE ABLE TO BECOME  
NRA CERTIFIED IN:  
HOME FIREARM SAFETY  
BASIC SHOTGUN SHOOTING  
BASIC RIFLE SHOOTING**



***Make plans for the week of August 13 - 17***

West Michigan Firearms Education and the Outdoor Discovery Center have teamed up to bring you this opportunity.

The Chick-Owa Sportsman's Club will be the host for this camp and it promises to be a blast (no pun intended).

If you would like more information or you would like to register, contact:

More Info – Tom Medendorp @ (616) 772-6943  
To Register – ODC @ (616) 393-WILD (9453)

## **SCHOLASTIC RIFLE PROGRAM**

The Scholastic Rifle Program (SRP) is sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and our club is now a registered SRP Club.

We will be able to hold SRP Matches on our range as soon as we have 2 items  
**Item # 1** = someone, with the proper talents, willing to construct the necessary knockdown targets.

**Item #2** = Funding to purchase the necessary materials to construct the targets.

As soon as we are able to acquire the two items mentioned above, we will be able to begin holding matches.

These matches are for kids in school, of course. They shoot .22LR Rifles in one of two classes, a semi-automatic class or a bolt-action class.

The kids compete as teams of three, shooting at targets with three levels of difficulty, and they are competing for the best time. The achieved times are posted on the internet and compared with the times entered from around the United States.

The SRP Season culminates with an opportunity to compete at Camp Perry in August.

If you're interested in assisting with either or both of the Items listed above, please contact Tom Medendorp at (616) 772-6943 or [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## **NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, September 29, 2007 is the designated day for celebrating hunting and fishing in America.

This day was designated by our United States Congress more than 30 years ago. To celebrate this day, we will be hosting an event similar to last year's event.

Last year we had more than twenty-five different workshops available at seven different times throughout the day. We also had an awesome breakfast buffet, pizza lunch, and roasted deer for supper.

There are no guarantees that we will have all of the same workshops or the same type of meals, but we can tell you that the presenters from 2006 are excited to return for 2007. Many discussions were held pertaining to what could be done to make the day better and more exciting for 2007.

There is much to plan and a short time to do it. If you think that this event is valuable to our club and our community, and you would like to be a part of making a difference for conservation, give Tom a call and let him know how you can help. As soon as we can form a committee, we'll set a date to meet. You can contact Tom @ (616) 772-6943 or E-mail him at [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHICK-OWA FAMILY FUN DAY AND CHICKEN BAR-B-Q SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2007**

Activities run from 12:00pm until 9:00pm. At noon, the activities kick off with:

- 3-D Archery (10 targets near clubhouse)
- Running Deer Target for Archery
- Rifle/ Pistol Range with a variety of targets
- Running Deer for Rifles
- 50/50 Shooting Games

These events will run from noon until 5pm

At 5:00pm the Bar-B-Q Dinner begins. Following Dinner, at approximately 6:00pm the Trap Shooting begins. The evening usually wraps up with a special edition of Chick-Owa Five Stand.

If you've never been to a Chick-Owa Family Fun Day, you need to be sure to put this event on your calendar now.

Following dinner, there will be a drawing for Door Prizes collected from local vendors and sponsors of the conservation cause.

### ***"Passing on the Heritage"***

We are "*Passing on the Heritage*" by getting people involved. We are getting people involved by providing activities that the entire family can take part in.

In this day and age, when people/ families are busier than ever before, it seems the only way to participate in extracurricular activities is to participate in those activities that the entire family is able to.

When quality time with the family competes with homework, occupations, video games, the internet, the television, and the health of Americans is as it is, it is time to find activities that can be done together in an outdoor setting.

Hunting and Shooting Sports have provided families with healthy options for the body and soul for generations. Come and join us for some of the activities listed in this newsletter and see how fun it can be.

***We'll see you there!***

## **CONSERVATION CAMP**

Plans are currently being made to host a camp for the week of August 6 – 10

The details of this camp are still being worked out. One of these details equals volunteers for the week. If you feel that this camp would be a great way for you to participate in conservation efforts here in our area, give Tom a call and let him know that you're interested.

At this point, the camp is planned to have different age groups participating in different activities that are age appropriate. Some of these activities include:

- Nature Hikes
- Track Casting
- Bird Houses
- Duck Houses
- Bird Feeders
- Archery
- Riflery
- Fishing
- Bug Collecting
- Exploration
- Many others

During these activities, the participants will be learning about their role in conservation and how they can become involved at any age. The current age groups are 5-8, 9 & 10, 11-13, & 14 – 18.

Mark your calendars for the week of August 6 – 10 and continue to watch the newsletter for additional details and registration information.

You can contact Tom @ (616) 772-6943 or E-mail him at [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As you can see, we have a very great schedule set up for summer 2007.

Along with this schedule comes many hours of volunteer assistance.

As a Sportsman's Club, with a mission to *promote conservation through educational opportunities and activities* for its members and the public, these events almost seem as though they are a responsibility rather than a choice.

Over the past five years, we have set the bar high. We did this in order to promote our club. By promoting our club, we are making it possible to *pass on our outdoor heritage* for generations to come.

With enough volunteers, we can continue to offer these activities and more for years without burning out any individuals. The old saying, "many hands make light work" will be a reality if we continue to work together for a common cause.

If you feel that you are able to assist with any of these activities or that you have any gifts that could be utilized for the benefit of many, please make the phone call to offer your assistance.

You can offer your time and abilities by calling Tom @ (616) 772-6943 or e-mail him at [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## **HIGH-POWER RIFLE CLINIC SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2007**

This is the first time we're going to give this a try. We're excited about it and we'd like you to consider giving this a try.

Your instructor for this event will be Dan Davis of the Tulip City Rod and Gun Club. Dan is a NRA High-Power High Master. Dan is well known and highly recommended by the rifle shooting community.

Take a look at the flyer inside this newsletter, check out the details, and make plans to take advantage of this opportunity on Saturday, July 7, 2007.

## **RECENT AFFILIATIONS**

During the past year, we have gained affiliations with the following organizations:

- The National Rifle Association (NRA)
- The Michigan Bow Hunters (MBH)
- Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP)

We still maintain our 100% affiliation with Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC). Our MUCC affiliation is the one which provides our membership with the Michigan Out-of-Doors Magazine. Our club has been an MUCC affiliate since our beginning in 1947. MUCC has been an integral part of our club for 60 years and will continue to be a part of us for many years to come.

In order to continue to provide opportunities for our club your Board of Directors has decided to add affiliations over the past year. Of the three that were added, two of them are past affiliations that had been neglected. These are the NRA and MBH affiliations. Our NRA affiliation was originally set up in 1957, fifty years ago.

In the upcoming newsletters, we will be trying to provide you (the members) with information regarding the benefits of these affiliations. You, the members, would also be welcome to suggest any other affiliations that you think would be beneficial to our club. You can do this by attending a regular Board Meeting currently being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month @ 6:30pm in our clubhouse. The Board Members would sincerely enjoy your participation. We hope to see you there on Thursday, May 17.

## **PUBLICATION OF THE FRONT SIGHT**

Do you have the ability to explain things in writing? Do you have a creative side that you would like to put to use? Maybe you would like to work on publishing our newsletter.

If you think working on our newsletter and printed promotional material would be a great way for you to contribute to Passing on our Heritage, give Tom a call and let him know. You can contact Tom at (616) 772-6943 or e-mail him at [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## **HELP NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN DAY ON AUGUST 11**

It is very crucial that we find some volunteers to assist with our Annual Family Fun Day and Chicken Bar-B-Q planned for August 11, 2007.

Volunteers will be asked to assist with the planning, preparation, and conducting of the individual activities. By doing this, volunteers will not be over taxed with the responsibility of planning multiple activities for one single event.

If you believe that you are able to assist with this event, please attend the May 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at 6:30pm. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Tom at (616) 772-6943 or [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## **DAY OF THE YOUNG CHILD 2007**

The Day of the Young Child was Saturday, April 21, 2007. This event runs every year on the third Saturday of April from 10:00am until 2:00pm. We have been involved for the past three years.

Our role in this event is simple; we promote firearm safety and conservation education.

This year, we handed out over 300 packages of information. Our packages included; Eddie Eagle Coloring and Comic Books, Eddie Eagle Stickers, a package of crayons, firearm safety brochures, and more. All of these items were packaged in a carry bag with our emblem and website information on one side and West Michigan Uniform's information on the other. These bags were a generous donation from West Michigan Uniform for our National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration 2006. It worked out very nice to have these additional bags to use for this event.

In addition, we handed out gun locks on behalf of the Zeeland Police Department and Project Child Safe.

We were also able to hand out information about upcoming events at our club and there was a lot of interest displayed.

## **WINTER ARCHERY LEAGUES**

We had two nights of Winter Indoor Archery Leagues again this year. Both leagues, together, had a total of 48 participants and ran on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from the middle of January until the end of March.

These leagues have continued to grow for the last few years and we hope that they will continue to grow in the future.



## **YOUTH ARCHERY LEAGUES AND CAMPS**



There have been several requests recently to hold a youth archery league at our club. There has also been interest expressed to hold youth archery camps at our club. Once again, here are additional opportunities to serve. If you have an interest in archery and youth, you could be an integral part of Passing on our Heritage here at The Chick-Owa Sportsman's Club.

If you think that this is the activity you are suited for, please attend the monthly meetings and express your interest. May's meeting will be held at the clubhouse on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Each month, meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30pm.

## **BROADHEAD ARCHERY LEAGUE**

Our Summer Broadhead League will run during the months of August and September. This is a great way to tune up your shooting skills before the Archery Deer Season opens in October.

In the past this league has run on Tuesday nights for an eight week period. The Outdoor Archery Range runs adjacent to the Rifle/Pistol Range. Continue to watch the upcoming newsletters for more information on dates, cost, and registration details.



## **2006-2007 TOURNAMENT SERIES**

Our Tournament Series went as well as could be expected, although it did not go as well as we had hoped.

There were a couple tournaments that had to be cancelled due to bad weather. There were also a couple that didn't have enough participants to continue as a tournament, but they went well as a hunt with friends.

The Tournament Series was originally designed to promote hunting and fishing with family and friends. We believe this may have been somewhat hindered by the two person team design. In response to this, we are considering changing the basic layout a little bit.

We are also looking at a structure that allows participants to attend as many tournaments as they are capable of while still placing them in the running for prizes. Of course, the more tournaments that one attends, the better their chances of winning will be.

If you got some ideas about how to make the Tournament Series more inviting to people and more conducive to family participation, please join us at a BOD Meeting and express your interest. Next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month after that.

## MICHIGAN HUNTER SAFETY PROGRAM



We currently run our Hunter Safety Program in partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center and have done this for the past year. During the past six years, Tom Medendorp has run our program with limited assistance. Just recently, Dan VanDussen became certified as a Hunter Safety and an IBEP Instructor. Dan and Tom ran the course together this last time and they both agreed that it went very smooth to have two certified instructors.

Dan and Tom would both welcome additional instructors to assist with the Hunter Safety Program if you would be willing to assist, please contact Tom to discuss it, (616) 772-6943 or [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

Dan also has the IBEP Certification which stands for *International Bow hunter Education Program*. Dan can mentor folks for this certification also. With this certification we can expand our program to include the IBEP Certification as well as the Michigan Hunter Safety Certification for all of our students. Join in the fun, Pass on our Heritage.

## BROKEN BIRD FUNDRAISER



We conducted our very first Broken Bird Fundraiser on Saturday, March 24, 2007.

Our Zeeland SCTP Trap Shooters hit 594 of the 1,000 clay birds they shot at on this day.

Breakfast was served at 7:00am. The shooting kicked off at 8:00am. We had Pizza from Vitale's for lunch. The shooting continued until 5:00pm that day and we shot at a total of 3,500 clay targets. There were many people who came out to join in the fun and support the kids.

We also had the Zeeland East Football Coaches out to shoot on this day. Their experience level was minimal, but their attitudes were great.



The kids all worked very hard to make this an enjoyable event and their work paid off. They



were able to earn nearly enough money to cover the costs of going to the State Competition in Mason, MI on Saturday, June 30, 2007.

As a club, we are actively searching for additional sponsors to assist with the financial aspects of offering youth programs. If you believe that you could be one of those sponsors, please contact Tom Medendorp at (616) 772-6943 or e-mail him at [wmfe@acninc.net](mailto:wmfe@acninc.net)

## WORK DAYS AT THE CLUB

At the May 17<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting it is planned to discuss projects and clean up activities that need to be done around the clubhouse and grounds. Below is a list of some of the items. If you have talents to assist with any of these projects, your attendance at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting would be much appreciated. The meeting begins at 6:30pm

- \* Shelving in the club house storage closet
- \* Adjustments and locks installed on the kitchen cupboard doors
- \* Repairs to the concrete lanes of the trap field
- \* Construction of new shooting benches for Rifle/ Pistol Ranges
- \* Typical clean up jobs in and around the clubhouse
- \* Possible construction of benches and picnic tables.

## SUMMER OPEN TRAP SHOOTING BEGINS MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

On Thursdays from 6pm until 9pm starting in May and continuing until the end of October, there will be open trap shooting at the club.

The rates for this year have increased due to increases beyond our control. The cost for a round of trap is \$4.00 if you're not a member, the cost for a member is \$3.00 for a cash round, and members can purchase a 10 round card for \$25.00.

If you haven't shot trap before or you haven't done for a long time, consider coming out and giving it a try. Take the family along. It's a great evening activity that the whole family can get involved in.

## RIFLE/ PISTOL RANGE

On Monday May 7<sup>th</sup> the Rifle/ Pistol Range will open following the Blue Devils Horse Platoon Qualifying Shoot. The Ranges will be open every Monday evening, excluding Holidays, until the end of October.

The cost for the use of the ranges will be the same as last season. \$2 for primary shooter, \$1 for accompanying family members, \$5 non-member fee applies to the primary shooter.

## **THE MICHIGAN BOW HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

### **Position/ Statement regarding proposed crossbow regulation changes and laser sight usage**

The Michigan Bow Hunters Association does not support using age as a condition for determining crossbow eligibility. Eligibility should be determined by need on a case by case basis.

MBH supports the current standard for determining crossbow permit eligibility for physically challenged hunters. However we are opposed to lowering the level of permanent disability from 80% to 60%.

Our Association acknowledges that the current evaluation process for crossbow permit applicants is expensive and frequently abused. We therefore support removal of the physician from the evaluation process as a means of addressing both issues.

Also, we would be very supportive of a more vigorous scrutiny of crossbow permit applications by the DNR Law Division to further address the abuse issue. In addition, there are other issues with the crossbow permit system not mentioned in the proposal.

We look forward to working with the NRC to resolve these concerns. Michigan Bow Hunters does not oppose establishing a permit for legally blind hunters using laser sighting devices on a bow, crossbow or firearm, when the hunter is accompanied and assisted by an adult, licensed hunter.

## **THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) will be voting on proposals at the May 10th meeting that would expand the use of crossbows during the archery season, most notably allowing able bodied hunters over the age of 65 to hunt with a crossbow during the archery season.

Please join us by attending the meeting and expressing your opposition to these proposals. If you cannot attend, please take the time to call or write the NRC and express your concern and opposition. Below are some bullet points that you can use in your communication to the NRC:

- Age should not be a factor in determining eligibility to use a crossbow or to determine whether a person is handicapped.
- The current permit system is broken and it is unfair to make the disabled buy a crossbow.
- The inclusion of this more efficient weapon will have a detrimental impact on the resource by increasing the harvest of deer prior to the breeding season. : This will negatively impact all seasons, especially the traditional firearms season. Firearm hunters are already concerned with the number of deer killed by bow hunters before the November 15th firearm opener.
- Expanding the use of the crossbow into the archery season will result in more conflict between user groups.
- Making bow hunting "easier" will result in the shortening of the existing season, thus reducing hunter opportunity and recreational time a field

The NRC meeting will be held May 10th at 4:15 p.m. at the new MSU Animal Health Diagnostic Center, located just south of the MSU campus at 4125 Beaumont Rd., Lansing.

To view a map:

[http://www.michiganbowhunters.com/msu\\_map.htm](http://www.michiganbowhunters.com/msu_map.htm)

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, contact information for the Natural Resources Commission is available by visiting the Michigan NRC website:

[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366\\_11862-26986--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_11862-26986--00.html)

For tips on How to Write Government Officials:

<http://www.michiganbowhunters.com/lettertips.htm>

Check out the North American Bow Hunting Coalition website for more information on adaptive equipment for physically challenged bow hunters. [http://www.nabowhuntingcoalition.com/Physically\\_Challenged\\_Bowhunting/NABC%20PC%20Bowhunting%202-4-07\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.nabowhuntingcoalition.com/Physically_Challenged_Bowhunting/NABC%20PC%20Bowhunting%202-4-07_files/frame.htm)

## **STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR**

Whether you agree or disagree with the information you see here or the information that you find on the internet, you need to make your voice heard. We, as Americans, need to exercise our freedoms and utilize our democratic system of government. It is not just a privilege, it is a responsibility.