**STRAITS AREA SPORTSMEN’S CLUB**

P.O. Box 764

St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

2014 Newsletter

Fellow Club Members,

My first year as president of the Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club has been very interesting and extremely rewarding. Our club is involved in a multitude of activities intended to provide enjoyable and memorable outdoor experiences. To review of some of the activities of the past year in which your club has participated, the following are considered most significant as they have had a large and positive impact on this area. We look forward to another event-filled and successful year!

**Hunter Safety Education Course**

Thanks to the efforts of Mark Eby, Kevin Monte, Jim Rose, the Mackinac Straits Shooters Association, and member volunteers from our club to make the 2013 Hunter Safety Education Course a success. We will again certify another class of young sports people in spring 2014.

**Tracks Magazine**

As in 2013, this year we will again sponsor the MUCC Tracks Magazine program to provide the magazine to fifth graders in Rudyard, St. Ignace and Moran Township school districts.

**Kids Fishing Day (KFD)**

This program is one of the most rewarding for those club members who participate in this event.

In 2013 over 180 kids registered, with up to 310 people in attendance throughout the day. Congratulations and thank you to our 31 volunteers, the Hiawatha National Forest Service, the 4H Club, the State of Michigan DNR, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, The Pines Trading Post, and the U.P. Chapter of Ruffed Grouse Society for their combined efforts to make this event a success. In addition, we would like to thank all the donors who made contributions without which this event would not be possible.

The 2014 KFD will be our 18th annual event. The event will again be held on the free fishing weekend and will take place on Saturday, June 7th. All club members are invited and encouraged to participate in the 2014 KFD. We need and appreciate YOUR help.

**Club Annual Picnic**

We had 32 members in attendance for the 2013 Club Annual Picnic. We had good weather, great company and fabulous eats. Be sure and plan to make this year’s event (date to be announced)!

**Big Buck Contest**

There were 92 entries in the Sportsmen’s Club contest in 2013. Due to 2013’s harsh winter, the season’s deer kill was down and only 18 deer came in to be registered. Louie Grondin won 1st place, 2nd place went to Jo Jo Visnaw, and 3rd place was awarded to Howard Everson.

The Sportsmen’s Club again sponsored a prize for the DNRs Deer Camp Survey.

**Brevort Lake**

The Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club has signed a five-year partnership with the DNR to raise Walleye Fingerlings for Brevort Lake. Last year we raised 13,000 Walleye fingerlings (2” in length) and the DNR added another 26,000 for a grand total of 39,000 Walleye fingerlings which were stocked in Brevort Lake. Thank you again to all who helped with this project.

The DNR and the Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club are working diligently to improve the fishing on Brevort Lake. This summer you will see a lot of the DNR doing creel surveys on the lake. They will be interviewing fishermen by asking how long they have been fishing, what kinds of fish they are catching, and the size are the fish they are catching. Also again this year the club will be working with the Forest Service to net Walleyes to check population and general health of the fish. They are counted, weighed, measured and released back into the lake. The fish are not hurt in any way.

**Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management**

As you are well aware, the SASC is strongly in support of this citizen initiated-law and we are working diligently to gather all the signatures we possibly can. Louie and I have visited most of the clubs in the eastern U.P. to gather signatures. We must gather 258,000 signatures by May 26, and if approved by both the Michigan House and Senate, it will become law. Passage of this law will prohibit large out-of-state groups from coming into Michigan to attempt to manage our wildlife and fisheries based on THEIR BELIEFS. An example of such anti-hunting groups is The American Inhumane Society.

**MUCC**

Our own Louie Colegrove was named and awarded Fisheries Conservationist of the Year by the MUCC, a very prestigious award. Louie has been the leader for numerous conservation efforts in the eastern U.P. and the Straits of Mackinac over the last 40 years. Congratulations again Louie!

**DNR Deer Habitat Improvement Grants (also known as DRIP)**

For the past three years club member Al Colegrove has applied for and been awarded DRIP fund grants. Last year we planted large Red Oak trees (at least 15’ tall) on Forest Service land next to key winter deer yarding areas. These trees are large enough to produce acorns within a few years.

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants**

Another partnership with the Michigan DNR, and area clubs such as Ducts Unlimited, the Sault Area Sportsmen’s Club, Raber Area Sportsmen’s Club, and others is in place to make application for available federal grants to help support wildlife in our area.

Notification has been received that this grant has been approved and it will be implemented. Funds will be used to protect and restore habitat for breeding migratory game birds and other wildlife species.

**Wolves**

Wolves are an ongoing problem in our area. Louie Colegrove is working hard to locate evidence of wolf conflicts in our area and report them to the DNR. If you have a conflict with a wolf (not a sighting) please contact Louie or the DNR. We are presently working with the MUCC and the DNR to extend the wolf hunt area to the eastern U.P.

**Cormorant Harassment**

This year the Sportsmen’s Club, in cooperation with the U.S. Wildlife Services and the DNR, will again be harassing and controlling cormorants on Brevort Lake. Club member Keith Doepker will be in charge of this highly successful program.

SASC has representation at the following organizations:

MUCC Board Meetings

MUCC Convention

MUCC District Meetings

Upper Peninsula Sportsmen’s Alliance

Michigan Sharptail Grouse Association

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Deer Management Meetings DNR

National Rifle Association

DNR Citizen Advisory Council

DNR Coalition Meetings

RAC Forest Service

Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners

As you can see, the Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club is involved in and supports many activities. You, as a member of the club, will help us to continue our support of all hunting, fishing and trapping in our area. Please be sure to send your annual dues of $25.00 (for membership only), or $45.00 (which includes the Michigan Out-Of-Doors magazine).

To: Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club

 P.O. Box 764

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Sincerely,

Gary V. Gorniak

Gary V. Gorniak, President

Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club