

# Michigan Bow Hunters

## NEWS



VOLUME 2 — NO. 4

MARCH 1967

## Annual Big Game Awards Banquet APRIL 15

The Inham County Conservation Club House (see map on page 3) will be the site of the MBH annual big game awards banquet on Saturday, April 15, at 6:00 P.M. Tickets will be \$5.00 for a single and \$10.00 for a couple. We will be limited to 200 people so get your tickets early. Reservations must be in by April 8th.

Send your check to Douglas Bartrem, 203 West Weiland Road, Lansing, Michigan-48906 for tickets. A swiss steak dinner will be served with cream pie for dessert. Bring your own refreshments.

Fourteen year old David Gilpin of Horton will be the recipient of the MBH "Leonard Smalstis Memorial Trophy" for the largest deer with his 190 pound eight point buck taken in Jackson county. Loren Willey, the present Governor of District 8, will receive the trophy for the largest bear with his 295 pound male bear taken in Marquette county. Awards will also be presented to our other successful hunters for the 1966 hunting season.

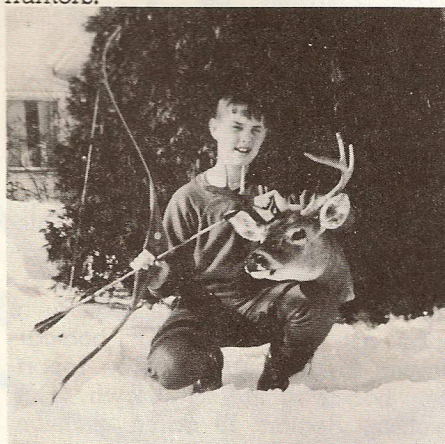
The guest speaker and program will be announced later, probably on the special bulletin insert sheet included with this issue. The Red Van Sickle orchestra will provide music for dancing to complete the evening entertainment.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND—remember the date and place, Inham County Conservation League Club House in Lansing. April 15, 1967.

## MY FIRST KILL

by David B. Gilpin

My big day started at about four o'clock on Thursday afternoon, October twenty-seventh. My brother was going pheasant hunting with my dad so I thought I would try my luck again with my bow and arrows and sit in my dad's favorite hunting spot on our farm in Jackson county. He has killed thirteen deer with a bow—seven recorded with Michigan Bowhunters.



Fourteen year old David Gilpin of Horton and mount of his 190 pound eight point buck. This qualifies David for the "Leonard Smalstis Memorial Trophy" for the largest deer.

I arrived at my blind about 4:15 P.M. and settled down to wait, watch and hope for just one good shot. As I was waiting, I couldn't help but remember my trip north to Houghton Lake with my family the previous week. Our first night of hunting had been a real success. My brother, mother and dad all had shots, with my dad getting a hit on his buck. After tracking it for about 70 yards through dense swamp, we found his

four-point buck. He had made a beautiful shot on him right in the heart. Earlier that same evening, I had seen some deer too, but they were too far away to even attempt a shot. The following morning a nice doe and two fawns came within 30 yards of my blind. My shot went right under the lead doe. I sure was disappointed—thought for sure I had just blown the perfect shot of the season and perhaps the only shot I would get. I have hunted with a bow for five years and know that good shots are few and far between.

After sitting for an hour and a half, I began thinking "this is another bad night". Just about then I spotted "my" deer, sneaking through the small clearing in front of my blind—about 30 yards away. Just the same range I had missed hitting the doe the week before. But this one was a BIG BUCK! I pulled back my 46-pound Bear Magnum and as I drew, the thought ran through my mind of the low shot I had made the week before. So I raised my bow let fly my fiberglass arrow. Ka-chunk! I had a hit—a little behind my intended mark but still in the rib cage. The deer grunted and crashed into the brush. I waited a second or two and then went over to check for blood. After going and getting my dad and brother and telling them I thought I had a "pretty good hit", we went back into the woods and tracked blood for about 70 yards till it was so dark we couldn't see a thing. We went back to the house to get our Coleman lantern, and while there called two of my dad's friends, George Nicholls and Tom Farrell, to ask their help in tracking.

After the five of us picked up the trail of blood again, we tracked for another 80 yards before we found

(continued on page 2)



## VP's MESSAGE

The bill for the extended deer season is now in the process of being introduced. Senator Gordon Rockwell of Mt. Morris is going to introduce the bill for us.

Senator Rockwell is chairman of the "Conservation and Tourist Industry" committee. I feel this will be a great help to us as the bill must be reported out of his committee before the Senate can take final action and send it to the House of Representatives for their approval.

As soon as the bill is introduced we must write our Senators and tell them of our interest in the bill and we hope they will give it their approval. Give your reasons for wanting this bill passed.

Our amendment is as follows:

Amend section 11 of chapter 2 of Act No. 286 of the Public Acts of 1929:—

### Zones 1 & 2

Deer (either sex) with Bow and Arrow—October 1 thru November 5

### Zone 3

Deer (either sex) with Bow and Arrow — October 1 thru December 31, except that the season shall be closed during any season open to the taking of deer with fire arms.

Following are some interesting facts that might be helpful when writing your senator:

The highway deer kill in Zone 3 for 1966 from January to September averaged 177 per month. In October it was 559, November 788, December 495, an averaged of 614 per month. We are asking for an extended season in November and December.

In 1965 there were approximately 50,680 bow and hunting licenses sold and a deer kill as follows: Zone 1, 430; Zone 2, 1,430; Zone 3, 310. Archery hunting success statewide in 1965 was 4.3%.

The state of Wisconsin has 81 days of archery hunting, Minnesota has 47 days, Pennsylvania has 44

days and Michigan has 36 days. If the bill is passed as introduced, Michigan will have 77 days in Zone 3.

Again let me point out that everyone should write their own letter to their Senator and not send group letters or petitions. Contact all your hunting partners and have them write a letter also. Let's all get behind this bill and we will be successful.

This is all the information I have at this writing but if more news is available before the March issue of MBH NEWS is mailed the secretary will include an extra mimeographed sheet in the NEWS.

Douglas Bartrem,  
Vice-President

## 'NOCKIN 'ROUND THE NORTH

Liz Gall

Coyotes have provided most of the sport for the Onaway Cat-Hunt guides this winter. January and February, Bob-Cat season, usually are spent chasing "cats" with their dogs every possible chance they get. This year however they have found very few cat tracks and have not had, close to the close of the season, a good cat chase yet. All bob-cat hunters in our northern area report that "bob-cats" are way down. John Byelish, Region II game division supervisor, confirms their opinion, saying that the cats habitat has changed. CEDAR IS SCARCE—a great blow to the snowshoe hare population and snowshoes are the bob-cats main food during the winter months. Cats used to feed on deer which were killed and left in the woods when the deer herd was larger. Since hunting regulations on antlerless deer were made, a very few dead deer are left behind. In short there is not enough food for the bob-cats. Game division men figure the population is probably down 40 or even 50 per cent.

The third week in January found the deer in northern lower Michigan and the U.P. yarded up after the big

snowfall of a January week-end. Deer had been ranging but stayed close to yards and moved in as the storm hit. A check by Conservation men showed that the animals did move out as far as planned cuttings near their yard swamps for feed. There are 17 small non-commercial cuttings spread through-out Cheboygan, Otsego, Alpena, and Montmorency counties. According to the experts and the weather machines, the U.P., white-tails faced a critical period in February due to cold and starvation. In all areas of the U.P. the winter picture for the deer is described as severe. In the northern lower, however, conditions are generally better but not without concern by some game men in the area. The deer are staying close to yarding areas. The fact that these deer went into the wintering season in excellent condition, say game men, is encouraging. This gives the animals a much better chance to "tough it out" till spring breakup arrives.

Bowhunting activities in most cases in our area have come to a stand still with club members choosing to do a little indoor shooting in preference to the outdoor hunts as the cold advanced. Some of us "hard-heads" are venturing out on snowshoe treks to do a little "stump shoot-in" and generally keep limbered up. After you once make the effort and make it to the woods, you find that you really enjoy it—and return whenever you can.

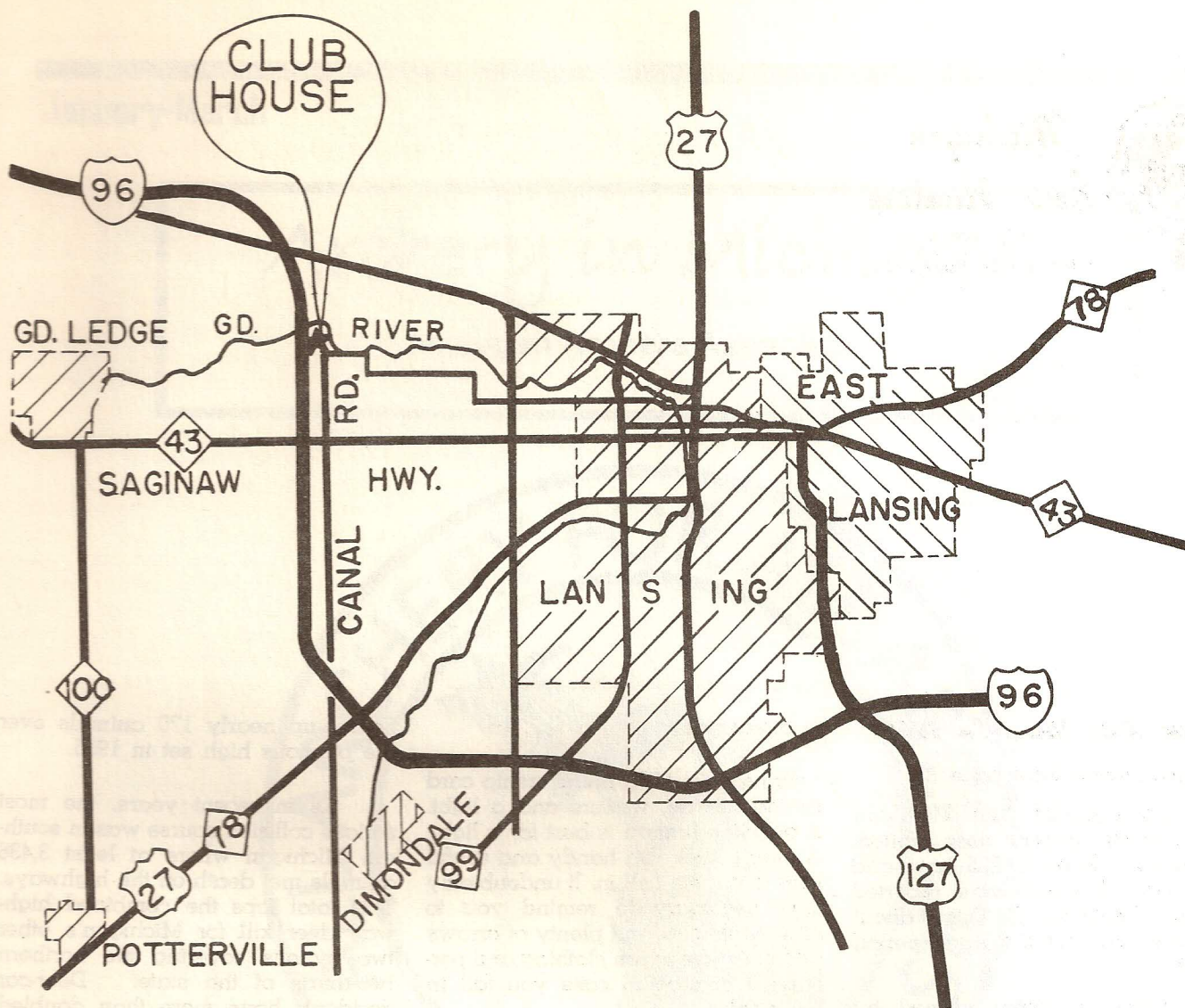
## MY FIRST KILL

(continued from page 1)

get in dragging my buck back to the house. And no wonder! Imagine my excitement the next day when we had him weighed in at a whopping 190 pounds. My first deer ever—and a real trophy.

I shall never forget this great experience. Already I am looking forward to next season—and who knows—perhaps another big buck will come walking out of the brush where I happen to be waiting. "my" beauty! My arrow had penetrated the rib cage-catching the liver and other vital organs. It was a good thing we had called dad's friends, for we needed all the help we could





Above is a map of the city of Lansing which directs you to the Ingham County Conservation League Clubhouse where the annual MBH banquet will be held on April 15th, 1967.

Use the application blank below to renew your membership or sign up a friend.

#### MICHIGAN BOW HUNTERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANK

Name		Address	
City	State	County	Zip Code

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have You Had A Previous MBH Big Game Award? \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO— Michigan Bow Hunters Individual .....\$3.00 yr.  
 P.O. Box 4  
 Flint, Michigan, 48501 Family .....\$5.00 yr.

Family membership includes man, wife, and children under 17

#### License Sale Drop In 1966

The Conservation Department reports a drop of about \$725,000 in sporting license sales through last December with the only gain being in fishing licenses. Accurate figures will not be available till later in the year. Michigan in recent years has ranked as the nation's second most popular state among gunners and archers but figures are down in both categories from 1965.

Reflecting the biggest comeback are firearms deer returns totalling about 422,500 licenses, some 108,500 below the year-end figure for 1965. Another decline shows up in small game licenses sales which at about 501,000 are off last years pace by nearly 50,000.

(continued on page 4)





## Michigan Bow Hunters

P. O. BOX 4  
FLINT 1, MICHIGAN-48501

### *License Sale Drop In 1966*

(continued from page 3)

It also appears that Michigan fielded fewer archery deer hunters last season. Some 42,225 bow and arrow deer licenses were reported sold as of December 31. This is about 4,800 less than for the same period in 1965.

Bear licenses sales dipped by about 355 to total 3,468. Overall, Michigan's revenue from sporting licenses amounted to \$6,582,904 at years end, compared with \$7,307,306 at the close of 1965.

---

## District 6 Sucker Shoot

Saturday, April 8, 1967 beginning at 7 P.M. and ending at 7 A.M. Sunday morning is the date and hours for the eleventh annual sucker shoot at Tuscola County Archery Club. PLEASE NOTE:—registrations and prizes will be at their range club house and not at the Conservation Club House south of town as in the past. To reach their range club house take M-81 west out of Caro about three miles to the State Hospital and turn south. Signs will be up

to direct you.

Bring your MBH membership card fishing license, waders and a light. A gasoline lantern is best for a light. A gunny sack is a handy and useful item to put the fish in. It undoubtedly isn't necessary to remind you to bring your bow and plenty of arrows and of course warm clothing and perhaps a change in case you fall in the drink.

Registration fee is the same as in the past, \$1.00 per person. Merchandise awards will be given out at 7 A.M. Sunday morning.

Coffee and sandwiches will be available at the club house, as well as guides to show you where to go in case this is your first time to participate in this event. DON'T FORGET to register in at the club house before starting to fish.

---

## Highway Deer Kill Hits New High

The Conservation Department final yearly figures show that the states known toll of highway-killed white-tails climbed to 6,219. This

figure, up nearly 170 animals over the previous high set in 1965.

As in recent years, the most serious collision course was in southern Michigan where at least 3,436 animals met death on the highways. This total tops the combined highway deer kill for Michigan's other two regions covering the northern two-thirds of the state. Deer-car accidents have more than doubled in four years.

The Department predicts the problem in District 3 will continue to get worse unless hunting regulations are liberalized. Game men point out that more animals need to be harvested in certain trouble spots to tone down the threat of these accidents. At present, the Department's authority to permit antlerless deer shooting in southern lower Michigan is limited to reducing crop damage. Highway deer kill does not figure in the setting of the regions antlerless deer season.

Last years district-by-district count on known highway deer losses reads as follows: Baraga, 137; Crystal Falls, 266; Escanaba, 279; Newberry, 290; Gaylord, 418; Cadillac, 292; Mio, 582; Gladwin, 519; Grand Rapids, 561; Rose Lake, 900; Imlay City, 220; Plainwell, 671; Jackson, 1,002; and Pontiac Lake, 82.