

# Michigan Bow Hunters

## NEWS



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## 'Nockin' 'Round The North

by LIZ GALL

The sucker season is open and some bowmen will spend many evenings on designated streams, trying for a big one or a good eatin' mess or both. This is the white sucker or *Catostonus Commersoni*. Some say that suckers eat trout eggs. However, there is no proof of this. They do eat eggs of other fishes when they are available, plus insect larvae, worms, algae and other aquatic plants. The mouth of the sucker is located underneath its short blunt snout and this fish procures a good amount of its food from the bottom of the lake or stream. In early spring they leave pools, lakes and rivers where they usually live and crowd smaller streams to spawn in swift water over gravelly bottoms. Multiplying rapidly, they reach a length of over twenty inches. Many people eat suckers but their greatest use is food for various commercial and gamefish raised in hatcheries throughout the state. Seasons for shooting rough fish with bow and arrow coincide with the spearing season and dates are listed in the fish digest given each purchaser of a Michigan fishing license. Seasons are as follows:

April 1 - May 31 - Designated streams, lower peninsula

May 1 - May 31 - Designated streams, upper peninsula  
Suckers, redhorse, carp, bowfin and gars.

May 1 - August 15 - Designated waters, carp, bowfin and gars.

Don't forget to enter your rough fish taken with bow and arrow in the MBH Carp Contest. There is an additional prize for the largest rough fish other than carp.

Let's remember to use care with cigarettes and matches. Because of

the light amount of snow, state foresters fear a very dry season in the woods this spring.

There was still a good covering of snow on the ground when I heard the first crow of the year and it made the sunshine warmer. Long icicles along the eaves dripped and chick-a-dees drank and talked of spring. At dusk two nice big deer came up our hill and pranced right up the middle of

the road past our place. We watched them alternately walk and caper along almost to our neighbors house before they left the road, clearing the barbed-wire fence in one beautiful bound -- pure delight to see.

Tracks in the snow, winter feeding evidence and many sightings tell us that there are still a lot of deer in our

(continued on page 2)

## V.P.'s Message

Many people have written to me, both in favor and against H. B. No. 3612 and S. B. No. 982, that would allow the hunters (bow and arrow) to hunt from a tree, deadfall, scaffold or raised platform.

I am sorry that many of our hunters do not support MBH on this bill. There are many reasons why we feel these are good bills and would help the bowhunters. Here are a few reasons:-

1. The archers would be more apt to have closer shots and therefore a better shot which would mean less wounded deer.
2. The archer would be able to be more selective when he knows he is not liable to spook the deer when he attempts the shot.
3. You would be more likely to hit vital organs when shooting from above the ground and also with complete penetration you would have a greater amount of blood quicker and therefore a much easier tracking job.
4. It is not felt that this takes more advantage of the deer than hunting from the ground in a blind, on the down wind side of a runway.

At the present time there are several states that allow hunting from trees with bow and arrow. If we want our State to be a leader then we must have better hunting conditions. Passage of either the Senate or House Bill would help a great deal towards this end.

Also in the process is House Bill Number 3701 that would allow bow and arrow hunting in Zones 1, 2 and 3 from October 1 to December 31 except that the season shall be closed during any season open to the taking of deer with firearms.

The MBH has made great progress in the past few years in making the hunting conditions for bow hunters in this state better and with the help of all our members the MBH will make this state the leader for archery hunting.

Let's all get behind the following bills and give them our full support. REMEMBER the bill numbers:---House Bill 3612, Senate Bill 982 and House Bill 3701.

Douglas L. Bartrem  
Vice-President  
Michigan Bow Hunters

