

Hunter Safety Course

Presented by: Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club (PLSC)

Where: PLSC

When: September 6 and 7 (Saturday and Sunday, both days); 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Pre-Register: call MDNR Regional Office: 906/353-6651

Fee: None

What to Bring: (1) Proper clothing for outside (rain, sleet, or just plain cool weather). (2) Sack lunch (\$0.75 per can in pop machine).

What NOT to Bring: Firearms nor Ammunition (neither, none)!

Eligibility: Persons of any age may attend a Hunter Safety course but only those aged 12 or older during the small game season may become certified.

Adult students or a parent or guardian must sign an Agreement Form prior to the Hunter Safety course (available at the PLSC during Saturday registration, or from Dick's Favorite Sports or Northwoods Trading Post)

Help Needed: If you would be willing to help instructors during outdoor activities on Sunday, please contact Dallas Bates (482-4365) (All forms of help are welcomed--extra eyes on the range, exam monitors, you name it!). We always need people with archery or blackpowder rifle experience. Parents are welcomed and encouraged to observe all aspects of the Hunter Safety course. *There is no telephone service at the PLSI range. Please make sure your child has everything he/she needs (including a reliable ride home) before leaving them at the Clubhouse.*

Officers

President: John DePuydt (482-4107)

Vice Pres.: Dallas Bates (482-4365)

Treasurer: Larry Davis (482-5024)

Secretary: Lynn Gierke (482-5331)

Directors: Ed Glowacki, Carl Vilmann, Jim LaBeske, Laura Bulleit, Al Johnson

Activity Chairs

Sporting Clays: John DePuydt (482-4107)

Sunday Shotgunning: Ted Ricci (482-5858)

Women's Shooting: Lynn Gierke (482-5331)

Action Pistol: Scott Gruenberg (523-4335)

Rifle Shooting: Bob Keen (523-4923)

Archery: Chair needed

Black Powder: Chair needed

Grass Cutting: Carl Vilmann (482-8550)

Hunters Safety: Ed Glowacki (523-4690)

2nd Amendment/Refuse to be a Victim: Scott Gruenberg (523-4335)

Website (www.plsportsmens.org): Chelley Vician (plsweb@plsportsmens.org)

Newsletter Information: *The Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club, Inc. is a non-profit organization promoting safe and responsible use of firearms for recreation and self defense, second amendment rights, and wildlife conservation. This newsletter is published sporadically. Submit announcements and information of interest to the editor. News and announcements from the Activity Chairs is expected, and any club member is welcome to contribute. Future issues may even be interesting.*

Clay Duck Shoot (Ducks Unlimited Event)

Presented by: Copper Country Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (CCDU) and Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club (PLSC)

Where: PLSC

When: September 13 (Saturday); Register: 9-10 am, Shooting: 10:30-?, Steak dinner to follow

Pre-Register (by September 8): John DePuydt, 482-4107

jandcdepuydt@chartermi.net (if you e-mail, provide phone no., DePuydt can read but he can't type)

Fee: \$30.00 (cost of dinner, birds, prizes)

What to Bring: (1) Safe, functioning shotgun (12 ga. or smaller) (2) at least 2 boxes of shells (shot size can be no larger than 7-1/2), (3) appetite, (4) money for silent auction

What NOT to Bring: 10 ga. shotguns, shells with shot size #6 or larger, an ego

Eligibility: Not necessary to be either a DU or a PLSC member to participate. Top gun prizes awarded in men, women, and youth categories plus shooters' raffle.

Help Needed: Desserts and Salads (contact John DePuydt)

Quality Deer Mangement (QDM): 7 pm, Wednesday, Sept. 17. Perry S. Russo, North Central Regional Director of the QDM Association, will discuss "Deer Management of the 21st Century." Contact John DePuydt (482-4107) or Perry Russo (248/930-1923) if you have questions. Bring friends, the public is welcome to come and hear about this controversial topic among sportsmen.

Published Rules

A Rules Committee (Lynn Gierke, Ed Glowacki, Al Johnson) was established to create a list of published rules. All of these seem obvious, but some are violated often. So, in case one or more of these were not obvious before, they are listed here:

1. No hunting or trapping on PLSI Club property. The Club is a game preserve.
2. Obey all range and ground rules.
3. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall be carried or consumed on any range. No person shall be under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance when handling or firing a firearm.
4. Smart shooters wear ear and eye protection.
5. The driveway speed limit is 10 mph.
6. NO LITTERING ON CLUB GROUNDS. Take your nonburnable trash with you. The magic fairies who used to clean up empty casings never existed! Pick up your empties, including .22 casings.
7. Lock the gate after entering and leaving the Club grounds, except during official events.
8. Only members and their guests may use Club facilities outside of official events open to the public. Guest privileges are extended to persons for their first visit and he/she must be accompanied by a current member. Club membership is required thereafter.
9. Parents or guardians are responsible for the conduct of minors.
10. Rule infractions are to be reported to range or club officers or Board members.

Status of Projects

Covered Rifle Range: Roof and concrete floor are complete.

Some landscaping may be needed. A storage shed will be built this fall some time (contact John DePuydt to help).

Funding was provided from a Friends of NRA grant.

Club Website: The website is being kept up-to-date by Chelley Vician. Regular club activities (weekly events) and special tournaments, shoots, and dinners are posted often. Bookmark: <http://www.plsportsmens.org> and thank Chelley for a job well done. You can renew your membership via the web as well. Links to the PLSI Club's affiliations (NRA, MUCC, IDPA, CMP) are provided as well.

Newsletter: The newsletter editor continues to be afflicted with procrastination diseases. He seems to get over one and then succumbs to another. This is not a unique situation, as the afflictions seem to flare up at home and work. Anyone else with aspirations of taking over this task is invited to do so. In addition to the fame that this job brings, the editor will provide a free copy of *A Sand County Almanac* to the new editor as a matter of inspiration.

Affiliations: The PLS Club Affiliations are all renewed. The club is affiliated with the National Rifle Association (NRA), Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), and International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA). Club members are encouraged to join these affiliate organizations and realize the benefits of doing so and participating in their activities.

Fish Pond: Not much happening but evaporation and decay of vegetation.

Membership: Lynn Gierke has updated the membership using a software program she inherited from the previous secretary, Mike Gloss. In addition to recording member information and providing mailings, the software can provide "reports" to activity chairs to list members that check off particular interests/activities. Membership cards are printed on business cards, which come in sheets of 10. It is not cost effective to print out single cards, so cards are printed when 10 or more new members/renewals are collected. If you need a copy of the card sooner, electronic copies can be e-mailed to you and you can print on your own paper.

Driveway: A provider of gravel has been identified, Ed Glowacki plans to use his tractor to spread/smooth the gravel. Dates for doing so were not available at the moment.

Power Lines: The power company trimmed the trees under the power line to the ground.

Grass Cutting: Carl Vilmann lost his list of grass cutters and so he humbly cut the grass himself most of the summer. We will provide Carl with more copies of the list for next year so that he can spread the responsibility of cutting the grass.

Club Rules: After compiling and approving a set of rules for the Club Property, a sign is being made for posting them.

Club Logo: We would like interested persons to submit designs for a PLSI Club logo. Preferably the logo would not only reflect the character of the PLIS, but also should be easily copied/printed and it should be attractive for printed documents, decals, and patches. Send designs to Lynn Gierke (lgierke@chartermi.net)

Future Projects

Improvements in the Pistol Pit: Scott Gruenberg is chairing a committee to develop improvement plans for the pistol pit and pistol range. Interested parties should contact him.

Skeet Field: A group of interested shotgun shooters have been discussing building a skeet range for a few years. A plan needs to be developed and, maybe, grants applied for funding the project. If interested, contact Lynn Gierke.

Wetlands: Pictures and maps of the wetlands have been submitted to the Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited to explore habitat improvements and improve nesting conditions for waterfowl. Arrangements can be made for DU to cover some or all of the costs. A discussion of options will be provided by Walt Kuntze in the future.

Involving Women in Shooting

As young men, many of us guys dreamed about finding a girlfriend who liked to hunt and fish. Most of us found one that would at least tolerate our own hunting, but only a few were lucky enough to find one that actually participates in hunting and shooting. Here is a sampling:

- Margaret (Mo) Shook is an avid sporting clays and rifle shooter. She is a dedicated waterfowler and just last year filled her deer tag for the first time (shooting a mature doe). That was not enough, as Mo also drew a coveted Michigan Elk tag and filled it with a cow elk.
- Four women shooters (Lynn Gierke, Michelle Danielson, Rachelle Bachran, and Lynn Artman) attended a Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) event at Orchard Hills in Rapid River last October. Each bagged at least one ringneck pheasant as part of the day, which included shooting and hunting instructions. Michelle also shot her first deer (a mature doe) this past year on her property.
- Tammi LaBeske and Cheryl DePuydt hunted pheasants on a preserve and each shot 3. They were amazed that many of the birds presented shots similar to some of the stations on the sporting clays.

It is not enough to find a spouse that likes to hunt. For many their interest is spawned during courtship. Interests need to be regularly cultivated. A common feature of the women listed above is that they are actively involved in offseason shooting, which fosters interests in hunting. Are you providing your spouse/daughter(s)/significant other fair opportunities to participate and cultivate their interest?

Future Events (News Forthcoming)

- November 1—Sight-In Day and **Booyaw**
- November 3—Copper Country Ladies Ducks Unlimited Banquet (Northern Lights, Judy Evert, njevert@aol.com, 523-4091)
- Friends of the NRA Dinner (Winter/Spring Sometime, Ed Glowacki)