

An excerpt from the editorial of **Precision Shooting Magazine**:

**Rather strange (if not very strange) shooting activities in Michigan. PS**

columnist (they're a strange lot, generally speaking) Dick Wright recently sent us a letter from a fellow Michigan bench rest shooter (again . . . they're a strange lot, generally speaking), Wayne Lamson. After reading and re-reading the letter and the accompanying exhibit . . . we can only conclude that the occasionally harsh winters in Michigan have taken their toll on (well, never mind; let's not get into deep waters here).

Dear Dick,

I just finished reading your latest article in **PS** about the spring Holton match this year. I congratulate you on a piece well done, and console you on another match shot just the way I would have done it. Signs of brilliance, and then a headlong plunge into the sewer at the last minute.

I have put together a hunt this fall that might be of some interest to you and other like-minded people.

We have some members in our local club that have given up hunting, not due to the lack of interest, but rather due to aging body parts.

For the past few years I have been going out to our range in the fall and shooting flies with my .308. This has become my favorite pastime and my activities have not gone undetected by other club members.

I have tried to remain a closet fly hunter but last year I was forced out of the closet due to my own inability to keep quiet about a particularly successful hunt . . . and the fact that I was caught in the act by two other club members.

Our range faces west. On a bright fall morning the bright sun shining on a white piece of paper is more than most cold blooded flies can resist. I noticed that if the sun was not shining the flies didn't come out and play, so I was limited to only hunting in beautiful weather.

I also noticed the same excitement seeing a fly suddenly appear on my hunting property, as I experienced when seeing a nice buck walk into a clearing. It was this excitement, and not knowing for sure if I needed to get professional help or not, that made me remain silent about my activities.

But there I was with three bullet holes in my paper, fly guts around each hole, and two club members wanting to know what I was doing there all alone with a thermos of coffee, a light lunch, and enough loading equipment to open a retail store.

“Fly Hunting.”

Not many of our club members have equipment worthy of a 100 yard hunt but the concept was well received. Everyone has a 22 rimfire and most 22 rimfires

are capable of a 25 yard hunt. So the hunt was born.

Every Tuesday evening, our club is alive with activity. One of our club members has printed up fly targets. People are buying new equipment, testing different batches of ammo, and are all excited. We have a club member in his 80's that has not hunted in 20 years. This club member now has a new rifle, a new scope, and the enthusiasm that would not be surpassed by a 16 year old. In fact, he is related to you. His name is Herman Wright. Owing to the fact that I have first-hand knowledge that both you and Herman share the same genetic defect, undoubtedly passed down through generations of Wrights, I thought that you just might be crazy enough to enjoy the hunt.

I have discovered that being a lunatic is not such a bad thing as long as you associate with like-minded loonies. I have canceled my appointment with my psychiatrist.

We are planning on hunting the last three weekends during September. If the weather report on Friday looks bad for Saturday, we will hunt on Sunday. If the weather report looks bad for Sunday, we don't hunt that weekend. We only hunt in nice weather.

If we can't get in enough hunting during September we may extend into October - but that has not been determined at this time.

There are 50-60 people that say they are coming "for sure". That means that we should have between 10-20 hunters. Twenty pounds of processed ground beef makes for a good hunt in my book.

We plan on making this an annual guided hunt and, hopefully, it will grow each year. In the future we may attach a registration fee to the hunt to help the club's treasury, but for the time being it's just for fun.

In the interest of safety, once the hunt begins no one will be allowed to go down range, and all rifles must remain pointed at the backer for the duration of the hunt. When the hunt is over a guide will inspect each firearm to make sure that it is empty and then all guns will be cased. We will be hunting from 8:00 A.M. until noon, thinking that most people would not be under the influence of alcohol that early in the day no matter how hard core they are (even allowing for the fact that this is Michigan, of course).

Talk it over with Glorya (your wife). If you can make it, you would both be most welcome. If you have portable benches you should bring them along unless you prefer a pick-up truck door or hood. Our club has five or six benches, and a few picnic tables but we can't make any guarantees. If you have any questions give me a call at XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Wayne Lamson

## **Official Rules**

Finally, a guided hunting program that is within the budget of every hunter! No license required, no bag limit, no travel expenses, and we only hunt when the weather is good. The hunt starts at sunup, and is over by noon. If you are successful, you take home meat that is already processed! No more guttin' and draggin'. No long walks deep into the boonies. Best of all, it is totally legal, and nobody seems to care, let alone protest. Animal rights activists even of the most fanatical sort seem to be singularly uninterested. Come join us at the Tobacco River Muzzle Loaders rifle range this fall for a 25 yard guided fly hunt.

### **Legal hunting equipment:**

Any .22 caliber rimfire gun. Any scope or sights are allowed.

### **Entry fee:**

A two pound package of ground beef from a local grocery store. Must be in the original store container and must be dated no more than two days before the hunt begins. Suspicious looking packages of questionable origin will not be accepted.

### **Alcoholic beverages:**

No alcoholic beverages are allowed during the hunt.

### **Hunting trophies:**

The hunter scoring the most legal kills during a hunt will receive 50% of the ground beef taken in during hunter registration. The second place hunter will get 30% and third place hunter will receive 20%. If these percentages don't come out even, they will be rounded off in a manner that will provide fair distribution of the trophies to the top three hunters.

No extra points will be awarded for any specific species of fly. Horse, house, deer, and big ugly flies all count the same. Fruit flies, and mosquitoes may receive extra credit if the tech committee makes approval before the kill is made. Dragon flies and butterflies are both protected species and taking them without a federal fly stamp will not be permitted.

In the case of a tie in the number of kills, (or in the event of NO kills) a shoot-off will be held. The shoot-off target will be a national standard ten fly target at 25 yards. Each hunter will fire ten shots, the hunter having the highest number of hits will win.

Hunting shots may be fired from any shooting position including bench rest with sand bags front and rear. In the interest of providing a style of hunt that many of our customers are accustomed to, we will allow hunters to hunt through the window of a pick-up truck door, or rest the firearm on the hood of a pick-up. Please realize, however, that limited space on the firing line will not permit the use of an entire truck. Thus you must either bring your own door and/or hood, or you can remove the door and/or hood from your truck in the parking lot. Now that we think about this, during the height of the match season you just may elect to remove a truck door and/or hood at the start of the match season . . . throw it in the bed of the truck, and drive around that way until the end of the season. You should be all right in anything short of a full monsoon.

There is no limit to the number of shots that may be fired during a hunt. There is no extra credit given for highest percentage of kills with the fewest shots. A hunter shooting 100 shots making two kills will beat a hunter firing two shots with only one kill.

Each hunter will have a designated hunting area (one firing position). All kills must be made within that hunting area. Any kills made outside of the legal hunting area will not be counted in the kill totals. Kills made in another hunter's area will be considered poaching and result in a reduction of one kill.

Baiting is allowed at the hunter's discretion. All bait materials may be placed around or under the assigned hunting area but may not be placed directly inside of the hunting area. Firing shots into bait piles in attempt to splatter bait into the hunting area is not permitted. Any hunter using bait will be responsible for removing the bait and properly disposing of it when the hunt is over. Once the hunt has started, hunters will not be allowed to go into the hunting area and freshen their bait pile.

Nothing may be attached, or applied, or smeared inside the hunting area except bullet holes and flies. (No fly paper or glue, etc.)

Decoy flies may be used but must be declared as such before the hunt begins. Each decoy must be circled with a felt marker before the hunt begins. No kills will be counted that are made inside a decoy circle. Decoys may be stapled, pinned, or tacked to the hunting area. No glue is allowed.

When a hunter is going for a kill, they must inform at least two other hunters prior to the shot so the shot can be witnessed. No claims of "I must have blown him clean through the paper" will be allowed. Hunters will only receive credit for confirmed kills. A blood trail and gut pile may be required if the hit was questionable.

Wounded game that get away and cross into a neighbor's hunting area become the property of the hunter assigned to that area. The first blood rule does

not apply.

Fly driving will not be permitted. If a trophy is spotted on neighboring property shots may not be fired on the neighbor's property in an effort to drive game onto your property.

If a hunter wounds a fly and it is unable to fly away, it must be humanely dispatched by the hunter. If a hunter is unable to finish off a wounded fly after two consecutive shots, all other hunters and guides in the area will be obliged to assist in finishing off the critter.