



## **Paw Paw Conservation Club Membership Application and Instructions**

Paw Paw Conservation Club 56222 30th Street Paw Paw, MI 49079 269-657-8949

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Paw Paw Conservation Club. We look forward to seeing you.

We are a conservation and gun club, located in the Paw Paw area on 122 acres of wooded land with a stream and pond. Our mission is to promote the conservation of land and wildlife, and to establish and preserve safe hunting and shooting practices for both sport and pleasure. We maintain ranges for rifle, pistol, archery, air rifles and muzzleloaders for our members. We also host many open to the public shoots and events.

**New applicants should be at cabin the first Tuesday of the month that you wish to join before 6pm for orientation. (There will be no new members accepted in January).**

**Checklist for becoming a Member of the Paw Paw Conservation Club.**

**Complete ALL of the following steps 1 through 5 BEFORE you come for Orientation.**

- 1. Print out a copy of this application and instructions from the Web Site, or pick one up at a Club activity.
- 2. **Completely fill out the application and have it with you at the meeting.**
- 3. **Obtain a Sponsor (a current Member, who has been in good standing for more than one year). Have your Sponsor fill out and sign the “Sponsor” section of the application, or they can meet you at the Monthly Membership Meeting to do so. If you do not have a sponsor, please attend a Club activity to meet our members, get to know us, so then a member will sponsor you.**
- 4. Be prepared to pay the Club Secretary for your membership at the end of meeting. For the amount and a list of options see page 4 of this document.
- 5. Be at the cabin before 6pm on the first Tuesday of the month (except January) for new member orientation. At 6pm the committee and prospective new members will go to the range (weather permitting) for orientation.
- 6. Once orientation has concluded, attend the regular monthly membership meeting in the cabin. During the monthly meeting, all applicants will be introduced to the membership and asked a few questions. Then, the applicants will be asked to wait while the membership committee makes its recommendation to the PPCC members at the meeting. A vote will be taken by the assembly whether to accept or reject each applicant, (any objections must be resolved prior to granting membership. The applicant or his sponsor must be present during this process.
- 7. You will then be informed if your application has been approved. If you have been approved you will receive your membership card after you pay you dues at the end of the meeting.

## A few things to be aware of:

- Y Safety is our **FIRST PRIORITY**. You must know and follow all the basic Club Firearm Safety Rules. (They are listed on the next 2 pages)
  1. If a Range Officer is on duty he or she is in charge, and **MUST** be obeyed.
  2. Firearms and bows should be discharged in designated shooting areas only.
  3. Eye and hearing protection should be used when appropriate.
  4. Uncased firearms will have actions open, magazines out, and muzzles pointed in a safe direction or down range while behind the firing line. Handguns may be closed and holstered if unloaded.
  5. Load on the firing line only and keep guns pointed downrange and below the tops of the bunkers.
  6. Shoot only at Paper targets attached to the target back board in front of the bunkers. Shooting at glass, metal, rocks, buildings, clay pigeons, target frames, cans, bowling pins, or anything placed on the ground, etc. is prohibited. **Ricochets are dangerous.**
  7. People will not go downrange until all firearms are unloaded and the line called "safe". No firearms are to be handled while anyone is downrange.
  8. Do not drive on any of the ranges or firing lines.
  9. No shot gun or rifle shooting on the pistol range.
  10. No minors (under 18) may shoot without supervision.
  11. No illegal drugs may be brought on to Club property. People using alcohol or drugs will not shoot or handle guns. Alcohol is **NOT** allowed on shooting ranges during or prior to shooting.
- Y Take home everything you bring; targets, ammo boxes, etc. Leave PPCC clean each time you are here. No live rounds should be left on the range or at the club. Take them with you and dispose of them at home.
- Y New members are on probation for one year, during which time you will not be allowed to sponsor anyone.
- Y We have Membership Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. This is how we govern our Club, please attend at least a couple each year.
- Y We have Maintenance Work Days periodically, you can find out about them on the Web Site. This is how we keep our costs down and the dues low, please attend at least one per year.
- Y Members are given a card the front gate so they can access the Club. It is for Member use **ONLY**, do not give it with anyone.
- Y **Always lock the gate behind you on your way into or out of the Club for security. The only exception is when an event is going on.**
- Y If you are married, your spouse is also a member as well as any children under the age of 18 years.
- Y You are always welcome to bring two guests with you when you come to the Club. But, they must stay with you at ALL times, and you are responsible for them.
- Y Children under 18 must be under the control of a parent or guardian at all times. They must not be allowed to wander about the grounds.
- Y **PRACTICE SAFE GUN HANDLING AT ALL TIMES!**

## **The fundamental Rules for Safe Firearm handling**

1. **Always** keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, typically downrange.
2. **Always keep your finger off of the trigger until you are ready to shoot.**
3. **Always** keep the firearms unloaded until you are at the firing line.
4. **ALL** firearms are to be unloaded, actions open, on the bench and everyone standing back away from them while anyone goes down range.

Whenever you pick up a firearm, immediately engage the safety device if possible. If the firearm has a magazine, remove it before opening the action. Check the chamber to insure it is clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the firearm alone and get help from someone who does.

## **When using or storing a firearm, always follow these rules:**

### **Know your target and what is beyond it.**

Be absolutely sure you have identified your target. Equally important be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap.

**Think first. Shoot second.**

### **Know how to use the firearm safely.**

Before handling any firearm, learn how it operates. Know the basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the firearm and/or magazine. Remember, a firearm's safety

### **Be sure the firearm is safe to operate.**

Just like other tools. Firearms need regular maintenance to remain operable. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the firearm's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a firearm's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.

### **Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.**

Only BBs, pellets, cartridges or shells designed for a particular firearm can be fired safely in that firearm. Most firearms have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the firearm unless you know you have the proper ammunition.

### **Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.**

Firearms are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing muffs or plugs should be worn by shooters and spectators.

### **Never use alcohol or over the counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.**

Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting any firearm.

### **Be aware that certain types of firearms and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.**

# Paw Paw Conservation Club Membership Application

Revised January 2024

All members of the Paw Paw Conservation Club (PPCC) are expected to follow club rules as expressed in the handbook, constitution and bylaws. Failure to follow these rules could result in expulsion from the club.

**NOTE: Any statement made on this application found to be false, or information excluded from this application, will be reviewed by the Board of Directors to decide if the membership should be revoked.**

New member orientation begins at 6pm. Upon completion of orientation a membership committee appointed by the club president will review each new membership application. The committee chairman will sign, mark and date the application with the decision of the committee. The membership committee will present its recommendation to the general membership during the regular meeting that begins at 7pm. Club members will then vote whether or not to accept the applicant as a new member based on the recommendation of the committee.

**Applicant - Please Print**

Name: (First Name, MI, Last Name)		Spouse: (First Name)	
Address:		Children: (First Names)	
City:		State:	ZIP:
Phone:	Cell Phone:	Email:	
Occupation:			

**Sponsor - Please Print**

Name: (First Name, MI, Last Name)		Years of Membership:
Are you willing to vouch for this applicant:	How long have you known the applicant:	
What is your relationship to the applicant (relative, friend, co-worker, etc.)?:		
Signature of Sponsor:		Phone

Applicants Name:	Initials:	Date:	Page 1 of 4
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# Paw Paw Conservation Club Membership Application

Revised January 2024

**Applicant - Main Interests:**

Archery: <input type="checkbox"/> Rifle: <input type="checkbox"/> Pistol: <input type="checkbox"/> Muzzle Loader: <input type="checkbox"/> Cowboy Shoot: <input type="checkbox"/> Trap Shoot: <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _
Will you donate time to any of these PPCC sporting activities? Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/> Will you donate time to any work and maintenance activities? Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>

**Applicant - Answer the Following:**

Why do you want to join the PPCC?	
Are you and your spouse citizens of the United States?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you members of the NRA? (PPCC expects 100% NRA membership) If no, explain:	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you members of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
List all the gun clubs that you and/or your spouse are currently a member of:	
List all the gun rights organizations you and/or your spouse are or have been a member of:	
List all the animal rights organizations you and/or your spouse are or have been a member of:	
Have you and/or your spouse ever been convicted of a felony?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Are you familiar with the NRA Fundamental Rules of Gun Safety?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you read all Club Rules and Regulations and do you agree to abide by them	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Will you insist that your guests and family members practice gun safety while on PPCC property?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you and/or your spouse have a CPL?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any objection to having your name, phone number, email address, etc. shared with other members for PPCC purposes?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like a card for your Spouse (\$10.00 fee applies)?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>

**Applicant - I / We affirm that the answers above are true and accurate:**

Signature of Applicant:	Date:
Signature of Spouse:	Date:

Applicants Name:	Initials:	Date:	Page 2 of 4
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# Paw Paw Conservation Club Membership Application

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**Membership Committee - Recommendation to the Membership Regarding the Applicant:**

The membership committee makes the following recommendation to the PPCC regarding this applicant.

- Recommends membership (which includes probationary membership for the first year).
- Does not recommend membership.

Signature of Membership Committee Chairman or Representative

Date:

**Membership Secretary - The Applicant has been accepted by the PPCC membership and is on probation for one year. The Applicant is current with the membership dues.**

Signature of the PPCC Membership Secretary:

Date:

Amount Received from the Applicant:

**Applicant - Membership Dues:**

Membership dues are due in full immediately upon acceptance into the Paw Paw Conservation Club. Pay the board Secretary at the end of the Monthly Membership Meeting.

See page 4 for New Members Options for Paying Dues

Make checks payable to: **Paw Paw Conservation Club**

After the initial probationary one-year period has been successfully completed, membership renewal dues can be mailed to:

**Paw Paw Conservation Club  
P.O. Box 342  
Paw Paw, MI 49079**

Annual membership is from March 1st to March 1st of the following year. Membership renewal dues are due by March 1st of each year. Memberships will be terminated for members who become delinquent on their dues. Dues are not prorated for a partial year.

Applicants Name:	Initials:	Date:	Page 3 of 4
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# Paw Paw Conservation Club Membership Application

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New Members have two options to pay for their Membership, as follows:

Option 1 – Pay the annual Membership dues (from the list below for your category), plus a one-time New Member Orientation Fee of \$50.00. If you choose this option your Membership will be from the date you join until March 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year, at which time the next year’s dues will be due to continue membership.

Option 2 – Pay a pro-rated fee equal to 1/12 of the annual Membership dues (from the list below for your category) from the month in which you join through March 1<sup>st</sup> next year, plus the annual Membership dues (from the list below for your category) for the period of next March 1<sup>st</sup> to the following March 1<sup>st</sup>, plus a one-time New Member Orientation Fee of \$50.00.

### Membership Fees

<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular (Family) One-Year Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (60 years or older) One-Year Membership	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior (Under 25) One-Year Membership (17 & younger requires parent or guardian approval with signature on file)	\$25.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New Member Orientation - <b>Junior Members exempted</b>	\$50.00

### New Member Initial Cost of Membership under Option 2

Month	Regular Member	Senior Member	Junior Member
March	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
April	\$241.00	\$98.00	\$48.00
May	\$232.00	\$96.00	\$46.00
June	\$223.00	\$94.00	\$44.00
July	\$214.00	\$92.00	\$42.00
August	\$205.00	\$90.00	\$40.00
September	\$196.00	\$88.00	\$38.00
October	\$187.00	\$86.00	\$36.00
November	\$178.00	\$84.00	\$34.00
December	\$169.00	\$82.00	\$32.00
January	\$160.00	\$80.00	\$30.00
February	\$151.00	\$78.00	\$28.00

Initial Dues include \$9.00 per month from current month through next February, plus \$100.00 for the next year’s dues (March to March), plus a onetime \$50.00 New Member Orientation Fee. (Your membership will be good through one year from next March).

For Example:

- IF: 1. you have been accepted for membership, per the provisions stated above,  
 2. it is October of 2024, and  
 3. you are between 26 and 59 years old.

Your dues will be \$187.00 (250.00 - 7 months at \$9.00 = 63.00 for Mar. 2024 through Feb. 2025 PLUS \$100.00 for next year’s dues for Mar. 2025 through Feb. 2026, PLUS \$50.00 for the One Time New Member Orientation Fee.)

Please have check or cash (no credit cards) ready at the end of the membership meeting.

Applicants Name:	Initials:	Date:	Page 4 of 4
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