

Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



Michigan DNR Fluorescent Microscope Funding
Lansing, Michigan, USA
Total Funds: \$30,000 over three years



MIC is a coalition of all 13 Michigan SCI Chapters: Detroit, Flint Regional, Great Lakes Muzzleloaders, Kensington Valley, Lakeshore Sportsmen, Lansing Area, Michigan, Mid Michigan, Northeast Michigan, Northwoods, Novi, SE Michigan Bowhunters, and West Michigan Bowhunters.

MIC was formed in 1980 with the philosophy that Michigan's SCI Chapters could do much more for wildlife conservation by pooling their resources. Other MIC-supported Michigan wildlife projects include Upper Peninsula moose reintroduction and black bear DNA tracking, to name a few.

Just some of the areas where the new microscope has proved invaluable include bear tetracycline mark-recapture; age determination of bears, bobcats, moose, deer, elk, fishers, badgers, wolves and martens; parasite identification from wildlife necropsy specimens; wildlife forensic work in law enforcement; DNR public information and education efforts; as well as some monitoring of chronic wasting disease, West Nile virus, rabies and other diseases.

SINCE THE 1930's, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Rose Lake Wildlife Disease Laboratory has earned international recognition through its work in monitoring and ensuring the health and well-being of Michigan's wildlife.

However, at 35 years old, the lab's fluorescent microscope was showing signs of wear and beginning to break down. In addition, its fluorescent capabilities and mechanical camera were no longer meeting the needs of the lab's veterinarians and wildlife biologists.



Thanks to a \$30,000 donation by the Michigan Involvement Committee (MIC), the Lab was able to replace its aging microscope with a completely new, computerized model. With a maximum magnification of 1000x, new optics, more powerful fluorescent imaging that provides greatly enhanced specimen detailing, and a digital camera that takes vastly sharper images than the older model, the new microscope has greatly increased the lab's efficiency and capabilities.

