

Canoeing

Time is right for a scenic paddle

By LEM MESSEE
Outdoors writer

If you're going to take up canoeing seriously, consider the Red Cross basic canoe and river safety course. It will be held June 12-20 at Camp Copewick. Pardon, and it covers paddling, maneuvering tactics, equipment, self-rescue and rescue of others.

To attend, contact Red Cross Safety Programs, Box 351, Detroit 48222.

LAST WINTER'S snows were not only the deepest in recent years, but the winds were most damaging in canoeists' fun.

With an old friend, I explored the Huron River from the group camp area south of Kent Lake past US 23 to M 36 and found a dozen or more trees had fallen across the river.

If the river hadn't been over its banks we might not have made it past those trees. You see, we went around them—over what will be dry land in another month—rather than across them.

Even at that, it was a harrowing experience.

THIS IS THE best month of the year to canoe Michigan rivers. Not only is it cool and the water high, but it is the most scenic.

Decks and geese are nesting now. A couple of weeks ago you could see pairs looking for nesting sites. Last weekend you saw only the male, because the female was probably on the nest out of sight.

In the coming weeks you'll be able to watch the parents teaching their new brood: how to forage for food.

SOMETHING NEW has been added at Hudson Mills Metropark, where the Huron crosses North Territorial Road about seven miles west of US 23.

The canoe campsite has water and sanitary facilities and a privy you can beat—\$1 per canoe or a maximum of \$5 per group.

First got the Huron River canoeing guide from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, 3550 City National Bank Building (formerly Postoffice), Detroit 48226.

To make camping arrangements, busy the Hudson Mills Metropark office in Detroit at 428-8211.

"THE SIGHTS and Sounds of the Night" will be the focus of a guided night walk beginning at 8 p.m. Friday at Kensington Metropark.

Likers should meet at the nature center, best reached by taking the Kensington Road exit from I-96. Bring flashlights and wear light-colored clothing and waterproof footwear. Register in advance by calling 662-1561, the park office near Milford. The program will last about two hours.

STONY CREEK Metropark has banned alcoholic beverages—including beer—through June 17.

BOAT STORAGE space is available at Stony Creek Metropark, northeast of Beach City, for 100 boats and trailers from now until Oct. 17.

The storage area is fenced and lighted. Price is \$70 for the season.

"THE GREAT LAKES Nature Guide" has been published by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs to tell you about everything from mushrooms and fish to birds and animals.

MUCC is a non-profit group and the author of its booklet is Dr. Paul A. Herbert, former head of the forestry department at Michigan State University. Late University of MUCC's division of conservation before his retirement.

Reptiles amphibians trees shrubs and grasses are described in plain language in this guide, available for \$1. Send a check or money order to: MUCC, Box 225 Lansing 48911.

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THIS SUNDAY -- APRIL 25
8:00 p.m. -- FREE ADMISSION
21100 W. 12 Mile Road -- Between Evergreen & Lahser

Sweet and sensitive

Nugget, a cocoa and black four-month-old male, is a terrier and cocker spaniel mixture. He has had a puppy shot and is practically housebroken. The Birmingham Humane Society says Nugget needs a gentle, loving home. Call the society at 852-7821 or 647-2710 if you want to adopt Nugget.

2 women students honored at SC

Two area women were among those recently honored by Schoolcraft College for academic excellence in business studies during the 1975-76 school year.

Irene Borch of Birmingham and Carrie Borg of Southfield were among the 30 students recognized.

Need is not a factor for OCC scholarships

A new scholarship program at Oakland Community College will provide money for outstanding students graduating from high school this June.

According to Dan Niebels, chairman of the college-wide scholarship committee, there will be eight awards each covering tuition of approximately \$300 for the 1976-77 academic year. The scholarships can be used at any of the college's campuses: Auburn Hills, located near Pontiac; Highland Lakes in Union Lake; Orchard Ridge in Farmington Hills; and the Southeast System with campuses in Royal Oak and Oak Park.

Students having a grade point average of 3.2 or better should write a letter in detailing their interest to Dr. Nicholas Dean of Students, Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills.

The deadline for application is May 10. The student should request his high school to verify his grade point average on the letter of application. Grades earned through the Fall 1975 semester will be considered. Winners will be notified before graduation and announcements made at their high school's honors or swing-out programs. Further information may be obtained by calling Dr. Niebels at 476-9400, ext. 225.

Scholarships to be offered include four James A. Lewis Awards (named in honor of a former University of Michigan vice president) offered by OCC in its early development, covering a year's tuition at OCC; and four Scholarship Committee Awards, funded by donations from faculty, administrators, and staff at OCC, in the amount of \$300 to cover tuition for the 1976-77 academic year.

Activities flourish during spring days

Easter, trout season and maple sugaring are the first sure signs of spring in Michigan.

They also stimulate some great get-out-and-do activities that can more than remedy the first symptoms of spring fever, according to the travel bureau of the Michigan Department of Commerce.

One of the most popular offerings of the season is maple sugaring time, celebrated annually in maple syrup festivals. Vermontville will hold its festival April 22-25 and Shepherd has slated its festival April 24-25.

Looking ahead, the April through September Michigan calendar of travel events lists Home Builders of Flint Trade Show, Genesee Valley Center, near Flint, April 22-25 and the Home and Sports Show, fair grounds at Hastings, April 30-May 2.

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