

Plan ahead

State park campsites crowded; book yours

Despite record-breaking crowds in Michigan's state parks, your family's chances are still "very good" if you write ahead to book reservations, the Department of Natural Resources said.

Reservations should be made at least 15 days in advance by filling out an application form from a DNR park or field office. Sites can be reserved for a minimum of four nights—a maximum of 15, but the DNR suggested campers keep second choice dates and campgrounds in mind, just in

case. "Most lower peninsula campgrounds were filled on the Memorial Day weekend," said Jack Butterfield, DNR parks division chief. "Even as far as Fort Wilkins, Michigan's northernmost state park, the east campground was filled, which is very unusual. And the day-use parking lot filled three times during the holiday weekend."

IF YOU ARE ONE of this year's expected 22 million visitors, you will

find better swimming and picnicking facilities, easier access, nature centers, more adequate electricity and water supply, Butterfield said.

Seven Lakes State Park, near Fenton, has just opened and boasts new picnic areas with shelters, toilets and a new swimming beach.

So far, it has not had heavy use.

Wilson State Park near Harrison has its beach improved by new retaining walls, stairways and walkways.

Roads, parking facilities and picnic areas have improved day-use facilities at: Dodge State Park No. 4 on Cass Lake, where a new bridge provides better access to the beach and picnic areas; Algonac State Park, where a new bridge and entrance road opened the northern half of that park to hiking; Bald Mountain Recreation Area near Lake Orion; and Straits State Park at St. Ignace which features a new memorial to Fr. Jacques Marquette.

You look marvelous in summer tan. It's that kind of fantastic shade that makes your tan look tanner, that goes with just about any color you can think of, and that somehow makes a guy look sexier. The summer tan suit we show here is cut in a vested two-button American style, with soft shoulders and just the slightest suppression at the waist—so that it fits easily, looks trim without being tight. It's \$185, and it's from our John Milford collection. Other tan suits are priced from \$175 to \$270.



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Students brainstorm for elderly pill-poppers

With deteriorating eyesight, many elderly persons have trouble reading the small print on labels for medications. Those with arthritis often have difficulty getting the bottles open. And many elderly people taking multiple medications find it hard to differentiate one medicine from another and to determine frequency and correct dosage.

These are some of the problems a University of Michigan industrial design class set out to solve.

Eighteen students in Prof. Allen Samuels' undergraduate class at the U-M School of Art came up with different solutions to the problems, ranging from magnifiers which enlarge the print on standard medication dispensers to a container which can hold as many as eight different medications in separate compartments.

"One of our major design problems," according to Samuels, "was to create dispensers that could be manip-

ulated easily by the elderly, but at the same time be clever enough that a child could not open the container."

Samuels goes on to note that for many elderly taking multiple medications, "keeping track of the separate containers is extremely difficult. Thus, many of the students' projects focused on ways to centralize storage of the medication."

One student produced a medicine "book" which dispenses a predetermined number of capsules on each page. Another device contains cups filled with prescribed medications which can be released by sliding the cups off a plastic track.

Probably the most marketable project in the class, according to Samuels, is a plastic magnifier which slides on and fastens to standard medicine bottles of various sizes.

As part of the course, the U-M students were coated lenses and other de-

vices to simulate sensory impairments of the aged. The students' designs were critiqued by two members of the Institute of Gerontology at U-M: Leon Pastalan, director of research, and Mike Reiter, a pharmacist.

"The course has two basic goals," said Samuels. "One is to teach students how to design products, and the other is to enhance their sensitivity to people unlike themselves—in this case the elderly."

"The population in this country is turning upside down, with more and more elderly persons," says Samuels. "Companies have traditionally designed products for the majority. In addition, designs which serve the elderly could serve others as well."

This was the third project undertaken by U-M industrial design students dealing with the elderly or the handicapped.

Coyote bounty repeal advances

The 40th anniversary of Michigan's present bounty on coyotes has just passed, but the occasion gave Department of Natural Resources officials little cause for celebration.

Repeal of the bounty has been a key legislative priority for the DNR for many years. This was reaffirmed recently by the Natural Resources Commission when the DNR was directed to "vigorously pursue the removal of the coyote bounty and, in October and November, review the success of this endeavor."

That endeavor, sponsored in the House by Rep. Thomas J. Anderson of Southgate, recently passed with a 64-30 vote.

The bill was supported by these suburban representatives: John Bennett (D-Redford), W. V. Brotherton (R-Farmington), Tom Brown (D-Westland), James Desebaugh (R-Bloomfield), Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park), William Keith (D-Garden City), Robert Law (R-Livonia), Ruth McNamee (R-Birmingham) and Sal Rocca (D-Sterling Heights).

Opposed was Rep. Richard Fessler (R-Union Lake). Rep. Roy Smith (R-Ypsilanti) was absent.

The real test is in the Senate, however. Anderson has introduced the repeal every year since 1967. On two previous occasions it passed the House and died in Senate committee. Repeal advocates argue the bounty system should be dropped because it does not work and is wasteful.

"THE COYOTE BOUNTY is a real waste of a resource," said DNR wildlife biologist Joe Vogt.

"Last year, only 16 per cent of the pelts which were presented for bounty had been taken during their prime. Pelts are at their prime from December through March," he said, "but the big months for paying bounty money are September, October and November. Then in April, you get a big upsurge from den hunting when pups are taken," he said.

Vogt said the coyote pelts brought from \$50 to \$30 last January at the On-

tario Trappers Association annual fur sale. Some Western Canada coyote pelts brought \$158 apiece, he said. Because of the good fur prices, critics argue that the bounty is no longer needed and that the bounty is no longer needed and that money from the state's fish and game fund might be better spent for other projects.

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), for example, advocated an administrative rules change that would have required the DNR to keep the pelts of every animal for which a bounty is paid. The Natural Resources Commission rejected the measure.

The theory had been to reduce the demand for bounty payments which are considerably lower than the commercial value of most pelts.

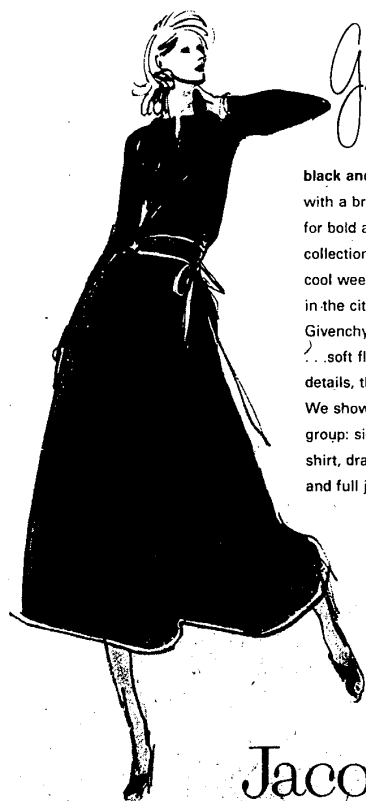
Under statute, the DNR is required to pay \$15 for every male and \$20 for every female coyote that is presented for bounty.

SOME WHO FAVOR retention of the bounty are concerned about the destruction of game and other wildlife. Between 1975 and 1976, however, conservation officers responded to only six coyote complaints. This compared to 1,059 complaints involving predacious, domestic dogs, last year alone.

Coyotes are part of the natural scene," Vogt said. "Deer have prospered side-by-side with them over the years."

"Certainly, they eat deer and especially crippled animals," he said. "But the coyote is an opportunist. Coyotes eat apples, grasshoppers, dead animals, other fruit and a lot of mice. They eat whatever is abundant, and right now there's a high point in snowshoe hare. Despite the bounty's cost, few people are able to make a living as bounty hunters."

"Some argue that the bounty is an important source of income," said. "but in a typical year only 20 people turned in 20 coyotes or more. The bounty on 20 coyotes is only \$400 or so."



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