

Hunting, fishing off

Great snowmobiling ahead

By LEM MISSE

Outdoor writers Snowmobilers will have it made once they venture out into the post-storm weather. Rabbit hunters and ice fishermen will have it more difficult. Snow conditions are good to excellent and there's lots of snowmobile activity in the Brighton and Island Lake state recreation areas of Livingston County.

In northern Oakland County, there are 3,700 acres of scenic woodlands for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and winter sports in the Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area.

The Holly area has good snow for sledging and cross-country skiing. Metroparks, such as Kensington, prohibit snowmobilers. They're good spots for cross-country skiing, however. So is Maybury State Park on Eight Mile Road in Northville Township.

RABBIT POPULATIONS are high, according to conservation officers in Oakland County. But the cold weather and deep snow are making it tough to get the bunnies. If we get a warming trend toward the end of this week, the cottontails may be moving about. The afternoon of a warm, sunny day is ideal.

Oakland GOP to hear Brock

Republican National Committee Chairman William Brock, former U.S. senator from Tennessee, will be the featured speaker at the 89th annual Oakland County Lincoln Day Banquet to be held Feb. 2.

The banquet, which is sponsored by the Oakland County Lincoln Club and the Oakland County Republican Party, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Raleigh House, Telegraph Road north of 10 Mile Road, Southfield.



Outdoors

In Oakland County, best rabbit hunting is on private lands. Hunters need to remember that a new state law requires you to get written permission to hunt on farmlands or posted lands. With hunting pressure down, you should have an easier time getting permission.

ICE FISHING has been only fair at best on most of the popular local lakes. Here, courtesy of the conservation officers, is how some of the more popular spots are doing: •Woodland Lake, Livingston County—perch are taking minnows; bluegills are aiming for mousies and wax worms.

•Lake St. Clair—pike fishing is slow most places; pushing on Anchor Bay is slow to good; near Harsen's Island, perch fishing is fair or better in deep water and weed beds.

•Union Lake, Oakland County—rainbow trout have been hitting wax worms at the northwest end of the lake; pike fishing is only fair at the east end; bluegills are reluctant.

•Cass, Oakland—a few crappies; gills have been hard to locate.

•Kent Lake, Oakland—best pan-fishing in the area, but lots of little ones.

•Commerce Lake, Oakland—bluegills hitting wax worms and wigglers.

•Pontiac, Oakland—pike fishing poor; panfish fair on wigglers.

•Walled Lake—the only pike stories are coming from here, with 22-28 inch specimens being speared in five feet of water.

THE METROPARKS are offering interesting nature center programs if you plan to take the youngsters out. Here's the weekend schedule: •Saturday, Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. at Kensington, "Tracks—Stories in the Snow," a 1½-hour program of identifying animal tracks with the help of naturalist Steve Horn.

•Sunday, Feb. 5 at 9 a.m. at Kensington, a nature cross-country ski tour led by naturalist Dave Mollanen; meet at the nature center and plan to be out 2½ hours. For both Kensington programs, call the park office in advance at 688-1561 for free registration. Park admission is \$1 per car for the day and \$5 for a season sticker.

•Sunday, Feb. 5 from 14 p.m. Oak-

woods near Flat Rock, "Lapidary rock polishing" Workshop" in the nature center. Members of the Great Lakes Rock Club will demonstrate polishing techniques. The program is free, but park entry fees apply.

•Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester boasts a large skating rink and two small hockey rinks. Both are located at the boat launching site, and there's a heated building with heated restrooms. With outdoor lights, skaters can stay out until 9:30 p.m.

To find your way to the metroparks, and to find your way around in them, get the new metropark map. It's not only free, but also the best highway map you can find of southeast Michigan.

Send your name, address and 14 cents postage to: Metropark Map—Dept. O-E, 3050 Penobscot Building, Detroit, MI 48226.

USUALLY I don't like to plug commercial products in the news columns. In the case of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, it's safe to make an exception.

Rainbow trout Italian...partridge breasts in cheese sauce...venison au vin...those are some of the surprises awaiting you in the newly revised edition of "Wildlife Chef," published by MUCC.

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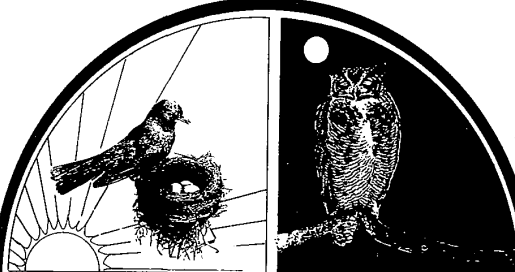
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