

Walleyes take the bait

By LEM MESESE
Outdoors writer

Walleye fishing in the St. Clair River is commanding anglers' attention these muggy days. Drifting and chugging are working in the river channels, yielding limit catches though not lunkers. In the river proper, try drifting with night crawlers in the evenings. At Harsen's Island, walleyes are running small.

Big perch are starting to move into Goose Bay. In Oakland County's inland lakes, large pike were hitting recently in White Lake, big bluegills in Loon and Silver Lakes, and many bass in Trout Lake of the Bald Mountain State Recreation area.

HUNTERS can circle Aug. 15 on the calendar. Put-take pheasant season opens that day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (except in the Bald Mountain Area, where it opens Labor Day).

Season runs through Nov. 14 and then reopens from Dec. 1-31. It's expected to be a good hunt because the state DNR plans to release 120,000 pheasants by the end of December.

One tip: Scout potential hunting areas and meet landowners to request permission now — don't be part of the horde on opening day.

The rules on hunting licenses, public access permits and put-take permits are complicated, so get a copy of the rules at the place where you buy your license.

STONY CREEK Lake is still closed to swimming, but nine holes of the new 18-hole golf course at this metropark near Rochester are now open. The other nine holes will be opened within a few weeks, according to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA).

The par-72 course is 6,648 yards long and covers 170 acres in the southwest corner of the nearly 4,000-acre metropark. Enter from the main park road, near Winter Cove and West Branch picnic sites. The lot has space for 100 cars.

The course is operated by a concessionaire, Stony

Creek Golf Course, Inc., managed by Harvey R. Gammage of Bloomfield Hills. HCMA has a 30-year agreement after which the course reverts to HCMA.

Purpose of a concession is to conserve public funds and bring in private funds to help develop the metroparks.

SPREADING OF public transportation, as many folks are these days, the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority has "demand-planned" bus service to Metro Beach, Stony Creek and Kensington metroparks. Call SEMTA at 362-1160.

TWO FINE nature programs are shaping up at the metroparks.

At Kensington near Milford, naturalist Dave Moilanen will lead a trip called "River Life by Canoe" at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. You should be able to see blue herons, kingfishers and other waterfowl. Call the park at 685-1561 to register.

At Stony Creek "Miracle of the Monarch" is the nature center program at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. Naturalist Roger Bajorek will use slides, films and life specimens to tell the story of this spectacular butterfly and then lead a short walk. Call Stony Creek at 781-4242 to register.



Outdoors

Off the Walls

Kids

By NANCY WALLS SMITH



Never is a young child more inventive than when stalling to keep from going to bed.

Suddenly a youngster who earlier in the day refused to discuss what happened at swim lessons or where he buried his emery boards is full of interesting tidbits of information that just can't seem to wait till morn.

One of their more effective plays is "Guess what my teacher said today, Mom?" Mom is always very interested in what teacher said.

Four hours earlier, at dinner, this same child couldn't be bothered with the more mundane details of life that might interest Mom. His head was too full of Mighty Mouse and waiting friends.

Now, oddly enough, at 10:00 p.m., he's a fountain of fascinating facts. Usually this tactic is resorted to some time after the old stand-bys of:

- I want a drink.
- I have to go to the bathroom.
- Open my door.
- Close my closet door.
- Close my door.
- My covers slipped off.
- I have too many covers.
- Let's talk about what we're going to do tomorrow.

I've been blessed with two of those kids who just lie in their beds and yell, "Moooooooooooo!"

From the family room it's difficult to tell if this imperative screech is a signal that he has his head caught between the mattress and the headboard or

if he just wants to tell me why he likes the color green.

Though perhaps this may be slightly better than those mischievous little tots who sneak into the room long after you think they've drifted off to dreamland. It could put a crimp in your conversation if at any moment a short person may pop up from behind the couch and announce, "Mom, I hope you remember that I have to have new shoes for school this fall."

MY KIDS don't sneak up on me, but they keep me bouncing up and down all evening for those last minute kisses (about six a piece) and important discussions of life in general. Last night after kiss-and-hug number three, my four-year-old said, "Are you falling for these kisses, Mom?"

I didn't know if he wanted to know if I was falling in love with him or if he was taking me in with his tricks. Sounds like something he heard Popeye say to Olive Oyle.

I can remember as a child being very confused about the fact that I would always have to go to bed when I wasn't tired and get up in the morning when all I wanted to do was sleep. It seemed to me at the time, that life would have been so much simpler if the routine were reversed.

For this reason I'm not completely unsympathetic to my son's sneaky tricks. It's just that it's impossible to explain to a child that he must go to bed so Mom and Dad can get some rest.

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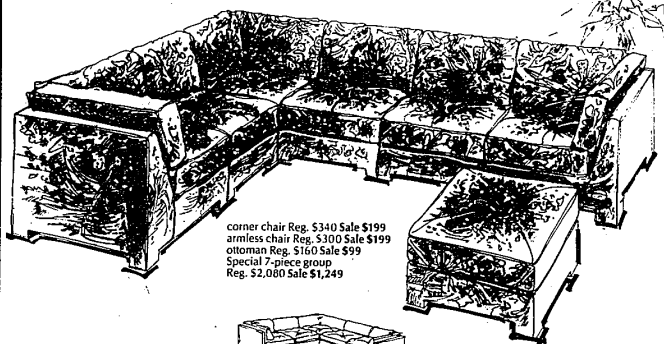
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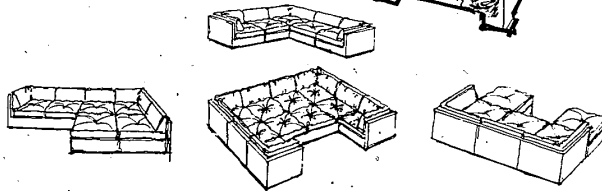


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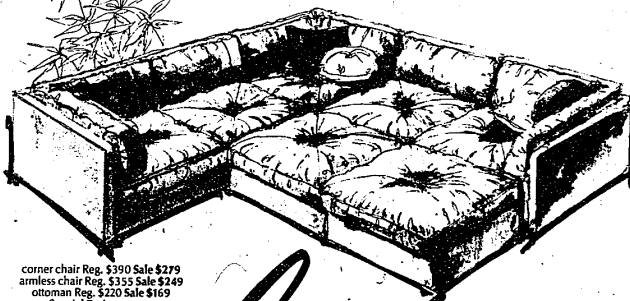
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