

Parks offer canoe trips, film series

Nature's sights and sounds will be the focus of a summer series of guided programs at Independence-Oaks Park and films at Addison-Oaks presented by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

A sunset canoe trip at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday along the shoreline of Crooked Lake will point out such inhabitants as northern snakes, painted turtles and freshwater clams.

A second canoe trip at 8 a.m. July 21 will introduce the birds of Crooked Lake including herons, rails and red-wings.

The calls of owls will be identified on the Independence-Oaks trails during a midsummer owl walk at 8:30 p.m. July 31.

Upcoming interpretive programs in August at Independence-Oaks include: ferns and flowers at 8 p.m., August 4; summer insect sounds, 8:30 p.m., August 11; nocturnal wildlife, 8:30 p.m., August 17; and trees and shrubs of Oakland County, 8:30 a.m., August 26.

County parks naturalist Kathleen Dougherty will be conducting the tours. All programs are free except for the canoe trips which cost 50 cents per person for canoe rental. Vehicles will be required to have a county park daily or annual permit.

Advanced registration is required. To register, call 625-0877.

Independence-Oaks is at 9515 Sasshaw Road, Clarkston, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75. The 850-acre park, centered around an environmental theme, also features boating, fishing, picnic areas and a swimming beach.

Also featured this summer in the county parks will be a camper's nature film series at Addison-Oaks. The movies will be shown at dusk on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Dates are July 21, August 4, 18, and September 1. Subjects will focus on wildlife, birds, insects and plants in the environment.

OU gifts, grants bring bonanza

Mid-April to mid-June was a banner fund-raising period for Oakland University.

The board of trustees accepted \$841,507 in gifts and grants to the institution at the June 20 meeting. The funds were received by the university since the board's last session on April 18.

Among major fund sources were the National Institutes of Health with four grants for \$244,441; the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare with a \$72,274 award; and the state of Michigan, with two grants totaling \$131,708. Some \$67,727 was received in support of the Meadow Brook Music Festival or Theatre.

THE NIH AWARDS follow:

\$213,199 to Venkat N. Reddy, Institute of Biological Sciences for support and indirect costs of a program entitled "Intracellular Transport."

\$39,060 to Arun K. Roy of the Institute for research on "Regulation of Alpha 2U Globulin in the Rat."

\$47,513 to Nalin J. Unakar, biology, for research entitled "Morphological Studies in Experimental Cataracts."

\$44,659 under direction of Frederick W. Obeas, academic vice president and provost, to provide biomedical research grants for OU faculty.

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County, road crews reach tentative pact

A five-day strike by 280 Oakland County Road Commission maintenance workers ended last Thursday as bargaining for each side reached a tentative agreement.

Details of the agreement are being withheld pending ratification this Saturday by the maintenance workers, members of Local 92 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The road commission suspended all road and traffic signal maintenance work during the strike, leaving emergency situations to supervisors.

Bill Burling, chief negotiator for the AFSCME local, said tentative agreement was reached after a nearly 10-hour bargaining session

Thursday.

Once the road commission agreed to extend the maintenance workers' old contract, which expired June 30, the union agreed to return to work, he said.

The union struck because of the road commission's refusal to extend the contract during negotiations, Burling said. He said he thought the maintenance workers would ratify the new three-year pact, which includes a cost-of-living increase.

The road commission maintained the strike was illegal and said the interim work rules it offered provided the same wages and conditions as the expired contracts "except union clauses."

Experts warn

Gasohol, small engines—repair time ahead

Now that gasohol has been appearing in service station pumps and receiving widespread publicity, the handyman naturally asks, "Can I use gasohol in my lawn and garden equipment? Should I use it?"

Scientists at the Tecumseh Research Laboratory, Ann Arbor, have issued a cautionary warning regarding the use of the gasoline-alcohol mixture in small engines.

In 1974, the company developed a blend of 10 percent anhydrous isopropyl alcohol and 90 percent gasoline (labeled IPA) to stop corrosion caused by tiny fuel residues that remained in every one of its engines after factory-testing.

Use of this mixture successfully cured problems associated with the condition commonly referred to as "sour gas." But, warn the scientists, there's a difference between Tecumseh's test fuels and gasohol, and a difference between automobile engines and small engines for outdoor power equipment.

Anhydrous isopropyl alcohol reacts with the peroxides that develop in fuel because of the water content in the gasoline. This alcohol neutralizes them and in the process gets converted to acetone, which is harmless to engines.

However, gasohol generally contains grain or methyl alcohols that are not anhydrous. These alcohols react with

the water content present in gasohol and tend to form strong acids which can corrode metal parts, even out rubber and plastics.

This is particularly evident in cases of off-season storage of lawn and garden equipment where the fuel supply is likely to be stored for a long time.

There's also a significant difference between automobile and lawn and garden equipment engines. Except in cold starts, a car does not run with rich fuel/air ratios. Government-required efficiency and emission controls preclude consistent rich operation.

However, in small engines, the situation is different. They do run rich, and they are stored for long periods. Here, the potential for corrosion is very real.

and this corrosion comes from the acid formations.

Tecumseh's scientists advise you to play it safe. Decide for yourself the pros and cons of gasohol in your automobile. But save potentially expensive repairs and parts replacement costs by using only unleaded regular gasoline or leaded regular gasoline in your outdoor power equipment.

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