

## outdoors

## Steelhead are running

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors writer

Spring steelhead season is about to begin on southern Michigan rivers.

Best results on the Huron River from Lake Erie to Flat Rock will begin any day and run through mid-April, according to the Automobile Club of Michigan.

Ron Spittler, state Department of Natural Resources fish biologist, said last fall's steelhead fishing was "very good."

"Our plant of 20,000 fish here in 1978 paid off. Increased flow rate in the river all fall from the Belleville Lake drawdown is believed to have improved the run."

But Spittler added that "problems of trespass on city of Flat Rock property near the dam by non-residents continued to plague fishermen from the metro area. These problems are being resolved in court."

The St. Clair River steelhead run should be from late April to early June, said Auto Club.

Spittler added, "The spring coho fishery on the St. Clair River has been eliminated with the decision to greatly reduce plants of these fish in Lake Huron. However, an excellent chinook fishery has replaced it."

"One local charter fisherman at Algonac reported catching about 400 chinook from mid-April through mid-May ranging in size from 1-18 pounds. Very few steelhead, brown trout or other salmonids were taken, however."

Michigan's mild winter may mean an early spring bonanza for steelhead anglers, said Auto Club.

Water temperatures in the 40s will trigger the spawning urge in more than one million 10-15 pound lake-run trout in 34 rivers. Twin reservoirs warmer water from less spring snow melt will send fish up the streams a week to 10 days earlier than usual and result in excellent wading conditions.

Good catches have started in some southwest Michigan rivers, though the peak hasn't been reached yet.

GOV. WILLIAM G. Milliken has signed a bill releasing funds for state land acquisition in Oakland County.

The state plans to pick up a 2,300-acre parcel in Orion Township now owned by Chrysler Corp. The property is just west of Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.

The property will provide expanded hunting, fishing, camping, swimming and hiking, Milliken said.

Portions of the property will be administered by the county and township, he added.

The bill he signed released \$18.6 million from the Michigan land trust fund. Among other acquisitions will be 1,800 acres of the St. Johns Marsh, the largest remaining marshland on the American side of Lake St. Clair. The state already owns one-third of the 3,000-acre marshland. Its acquisition has been promoted by conservationists and sportsmen.

Some 21 miles of frontage on the AuSable and Manistee rivers will be purchased from Consumers Power Co.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have these week-end offerings:

- A photography workshop at 1 p.m. Sunday will be held at the nature center of Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester. Ted Fefunk of Grosse Pointe will discuss close-up photography. Bring a 35 mm single-lens reflex camera.

- "The History of Wildlife in Michigan" will be presented at 1 p.m. Sunday at the nature center of Kensington Metropark near Milford. Naturalist Bob Holzing will show slides and tell stories of animals since the ice age. The program is free, but register in advance by calling the nature center at 685-1561.

There is a park admission.

Neutered  
pets make  
tax cents

Question: I heard that if I have my cat spayed, I can save \$25 on my taxes. Is this true?

M. J. Rochester

Answer: It may be soon. House Bill 5133, currently being considered in the House committee on taxation in Lansing, would provide a Michigan income tax credit of \$25 for each pet neutered, with a maximum of two pets yearly.

You can help by contacting your local state representative or any of the representatives listed below.

By encouraging pet owners to have their dog or cat neutered, the legislation should help lessen the in-



pet care

creasing problems of pet overpopulation.

Chairman is Rep. George Montgomery, House of Representatives, State Capitol, Lansing, 48901.

Sponsor is Rep. Debbie Stabenow, at the same address.

The writers are area veterinarians. Questions may be sent to: Pet Care, 29051 Walton, Rochester 48063.

OCC forum  
targets energy

A panel discussion on "Energy and the Way We Cope," will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

The Highland Lakes campus is at 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Union Lake.

Panelists include Russell Stebar of the General Motors Corp. Research Division; Russel Gosman of the United Auto Workers union; Peter Walters, director, Michigan Energy Administration; Ron Wilson of the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan (PIRGIM) and a Detroit Edison representative.

The forum is the second of a series organized by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Foundation for the Humanities.

No registration is needed for the free program.

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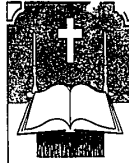
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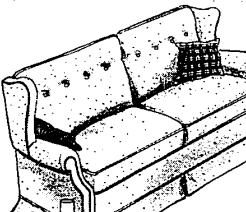
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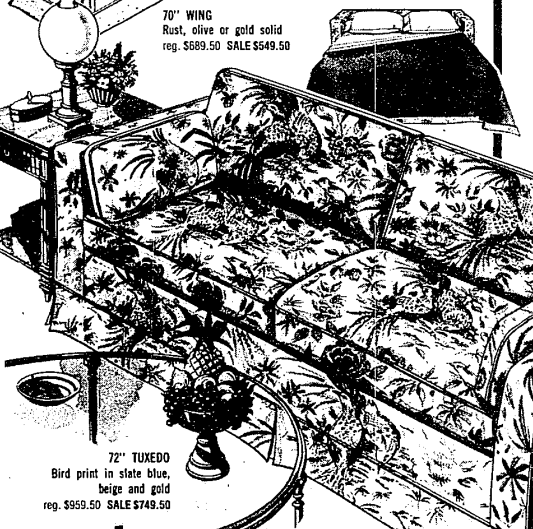
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