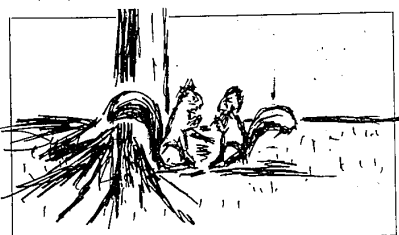


# Duck tournament is set; squirrel tails wanted

By LEM MESEE  
Outdoors writer

ing up Sunday, Sept. 21, at Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, where the Huron River empties into Lake Erie. The skills of waterfowling, marsh

A duck hunters tournament is com-



"So this guy offers me 20¢ and I say 'Hey, you crazy or something. This tail'll cost you \$250 if it costs ya anything.' And he looks at me with this weird grin and pulls out this long, shiny blade. Needless to say, I didn't stick around to get his card."

## outdoors

hunting, duck calling, sneak shooting, layout boat hunting will be tested in contests sponsored by the Pointe Mouillee Waterfowling Association, the Michigan Waterfowl Duck Decoy Association, and the Gibraltar Duck Hunters Association.

Entrants must register before 10 a.m. for water events, according to publicist George Kadar.

For the state duck calling championship contest at 2 p.m., entrants must register before 1:30 p.m. The winner will be eligible to enter the world contest in Arkansas.

Once again, there will be a trading post with table setups. This year a \$5 fee will be charged exhibitors to help defray the costs of cash prizes, trophies and the shuttlebus service from the parking area. For advance registration, call Don Girard at 274-1908.

A related affair is the Saturday-Sunday Midwest Decoy Contest. Decoys must be registered by 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

"IT'S SQUIRREL tail time again," says T. Layton Shepherd at Sheldon's Inc., makers of Mepps lures.

"We buy both squirrel tails and deer tails," said Shepherd. "The black, grey and fox squirrel tails and whitetail deer tails are normally tossed out when the animals are prepared for the table."

The company uses them in manufacturing lures. It pays 50 cents for a good quality deer tail and 20 cents for a good quality squirrel tail. Last year Sheldon's bought 400,000 tails.

For information on the proper care, handling and shipment of tails, write to: Mepps, Box 786, Antigo, Wis. 54409.

KENSINGTON Metropark near Milford has two programs coming up Sunday, Sept. 21.

A morning nature cruise aboard the "Island Queen" excursion boat on Kent Lake begins at 9 a.m. Naturalist Gordon Lonie will point out geese, heron and, perhaps, even deer. Register in advance by calling the nature center at 685-1561, and meet at the boat dock on the west side of the lake.

A traditional craft day will be held at the Kensington Farm Center at the north end of the park from noon to 3 p.m. There will be demonstrations of the techniques of making soap, candles

and cornhusk dolls, spinning and dyeing wool, according to farm manager Dave Moilanen.

There's a park admission of \$2 per vehicle, or \$7 for a season pass.

STONY CREEK Metropark northeast of Rochester has two nature center programs coming up soon.

Owls, "the mighty mouse hunters," will be celebrated in slides, words and a prow through the woods at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18. Naturalist Roger Bajorek will lead the program. Dress for night walking.

"Buzzin' Buddies," which is about bees, hornets and wasps, begins at 10 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 21. Bajorek will present the program, then lead a short hike to see bees at work in an actual honeybee colony. You'll even get a taste of the oo kum ney.

Programs are free after you've paid park admission. Register in advance by calling the nature center at 781-4621.

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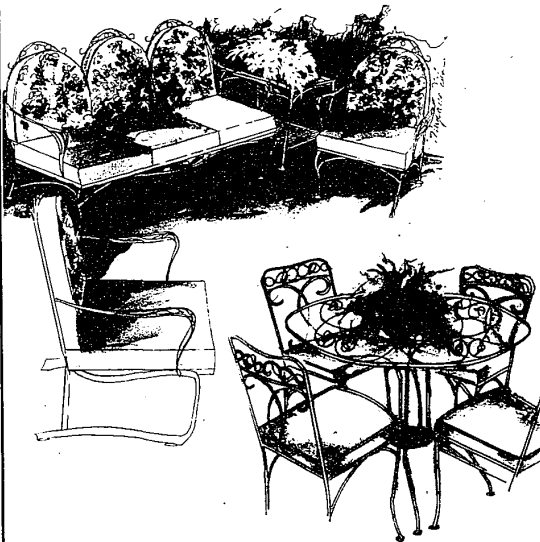
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