

# Try fall color in boat, canoe or with camera

By LEM MESESE  
Outdoors writer

What makes fall color? Greg Patchen of the Oakland County cooperative extension service explains:

"Cool weather slows the flow of nutrients from tree to leaf. The manufacture of green chlorophyll ceases, and other chemicals surface. These chemicals, caroten and xanthophyll, contain the yellow pigment."

"The more flamboyant red leaves appear only in trees containing sugar. A combination of warm days and nights cooling to below 45 is necessary to produce the red coloring. Sugar forms in the leaf during the warm day. The rapidly cooling evening temperature traps it there. It combines with other chemicals to produce the red pigment."

Now you know.

TRY A COLOR cruise aboard the "Island Queen" excursion boat at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Kensington Metro-

park, near New Hudson. Naturalist Gordon Lonie will point out the sights. Register in advance by calling the park at 685-1551. Boat ride is \$1.50 on top of the vehicle admission.

TWO PHOTOGRAPHY workshops on nature are on tap this weekend, both in Oakland County.

Saturday from 10 a.m. until noon, county naturalist Kathleen Dougherty will lead a workshop at Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston. Call the park office at 625-0877 for registration information.

Sunday beginning at 10 a.m., Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester will have its monthly "Focus on Nature" workshop. Featured will be Ted and

## outdoors

Jean Reuther's slide presentation, "Maine Attraction."

These workshops are the third Sunday of each month. A shooting session is held in the morning and a program in the afternoon. Bring a 35mm single-lens reflex camera and your lunch. Register in advance by calling the Stony Creek nature center at 781-4621.

THE VOYAGEUR canoes have been at Metro Beach until now, but they are

coming to Stony Creek Metropark for a program at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Naturalists Roger Bajorek and Bill Thomas will relate the story of the 34-foot Montreal canoes that were the freighters of the Great Lakes for 200 years of history.

Register in advance by calling the park office. Rides are 50 cents a person.

DEER HUNTERS are being recruit-

ed by the American Diabetes Assn. for a competition and prizes.

A \$4 registration fee covers prizes. Proceeds from "Bag Your Buck for Diabetes" will aid programs in education, summer camping for diabetic youth, research and disease detection.

Prizes are awarded by antler size of your buck or, in the event of a tie, by weight. First prize is a 30-06 rifle, and other prizes are pieces of hunting and research equipment.

Entry blanks and rules are available from: Montgomery Ward's in Southfield; J.C. Penney stores in Troy, Southfield and Bloomfield Hills; Sears stores in Troy and Southfield; Acre Sporting Goods in Rochester; and The Sportsman in Birmingham.

## Model railroad meeting slated

Families are invited to a model railroad display Sunday which will be at the Northfield Hilton as part of the National Model Railroaders Association meeting.

Admission to the display is \$1 per person or \$2 per family between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the hotel, located on Crooks Road just north of I-75 in Troy.

Model railroad enthusiasts will give free advice on things like bench work, track laying, scenery and buildings, electrical work, kit cars and modular concept.

The display will feature a 16 foot yard, multi-cab operation, two complete cities, complete scenery, full freight and passenger service, steam and diesel locomotives.

## Solar financing facts offered

A free directory describes programs that offer financial incentives to buyers of solar and other renewable energy systems. Called Sun Dollars, the booklet lists government-related sources for loans and grants and describes state and federal tax credits available. These help offset the cost of a renewable-energy system.

Single copies of Sun Dollars may be obtained by writing to the Michigan Department of Commerce and Energy Administration, PO Box 30228, Lansing 48909. It is also available by calling the toll-free energy hotline: 1-800-292-4704.

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Photographed at the Detroit Institute of Art