

outdoors

New state sportmen's passbooks available

Youth Hostels offer travel workshop

By Lem Meseo
staff writer

As of yesterday, Michigan has a new passbook system of sportmen's licenses for fishing, hunting and trapping. It should save paperwork.

Instead of buying many separate licenses, you will be issued a passbook the first time you buy, say, your fishing license from your local dealer. Thereafter, you will buy stamps for each activity.

You won't have to go through the hassle of filling out separate forms, carrying many pieces of paper in your wallet and not having the right license when the game warden stops you. All your licenses will have the same number.

You'll keep all the licenses in your passbook, which is about a 3-by-4-inch packet when folded up. The outer paper stock is a tough, plastic-type material, resistant to ripping and getting wet.

With the first license, the selling agent will fill out a form in triplicate — one for the state's records, one for his business records, one for you. Additional stamps will have a strong, self-sticking adhesive and cannot be removed.

THE NUMBER of licenses has been cut by the state Department of Natural

Resources from 40 to 26. Here are prices on some of the more commonly sold licenses for Michigan residents:

- Sportsman — including small game, firearm and archery deer, fishing (except salmon and trout): \$31.25.
- Fishing — husband and wife, for all fishing except trout and salmon: \$7.25. (The idea of licensing husband and wife separately was dropped.)
- Senior fishing — husband and wife, includes trout and salmon, buyer must be age 65 or older: \$1.
- Trout and salmon — separate stamps needed for husband and wife: \$7.25.
- Small game: \$7.25.
- Waterfowl stamp — to be added to your small game stamp for taking ducks, geese and other water birds: \$3.75.
- Junior hunting — for persons age 12-16: \$3.75.
- Firearm deer: \$9.75.
- Archery deer: \$2.75.
- Camp deer — for party of four or more, issued separately from the passbook: \$15.
- Bear: \$11.25. (A bear may not be taken on a deer license.)
- Public access stamp — required to hunt on public lands in southern lower Michigan: \$1.
- Trapping: \$11.25. (This must be purchased from a DNR office.)

A FEW warnings are in order. Take your passbook with you whenever you buy a new license. You can be issued only one passbook during the course of the year running from April 1 to March 31.

If you lose your passbook, you will have to pay full price for a new one. "Experience has shown that duplicate licenses are widely abused, and it's hard to come up with a cheat-proof method of issuing them," the DNR announcement says.

Some 1.8 million persons are expected to acquire passbooks. All license money goes into the game and fish protection fund and cannot be used for anything other than fisheries, wildlife and law enforcement programs. The fund totals about \$32 million for a year.

For all our complaints about rising license fees, DNR says its funds have barely kept pace with inflation. "We have fewer conservation officers today than we had during the 1950s," DNR says.

Historical notes: Michigan's first license in 1895 cost 50 cents and entitled you to five deer. The first small game license and the first non-resident fishing license came along in 1913. Residents could fish free until 1927. Trapping licenses came along in 1935.

THE NATURE study area of Kensington Metropark near New Hudson is starting to draw more folks as spring

makes wildlife active.

The Nature Center building features seasonal exhibits, and naturalists are on duty to answer questions. Hours are 1-5 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Four nature trails, ranging from a half-mile to two miles, are open from daylight to dusk for self-guided hikes.

No pets and no picnics are allowed in the nature area. There are plenty of other spots in the park for them.

The Kensington nature area is on the west side of the park; take the Kensington Road exit from I-94.

If a guided hike is your style, come out at 9:30 a.m. this Sunday, April 5. Naturalist Bob Hotaling will guide a two-hour "Spring Walk" and point out skunk cabbage, cold-blooded animals and migrating birds. Register in advance by calling the park office at 685-1561.

could you survive?

from the Air Force Survival School

The weather has been cloudy all morning, and your hike has brought you to an open ridge line for your noon break. Even at your altitude, the sun is hot, so you decide to use a small cluster of trees for shade as you enjoy lunch.

You notice dark clouds building up, see a flash of lightning and realize that an early spring thunder-shower is heading your way.

What would be your best course of action?

- a) Stay where you are.
- b) Go down the lee side of the mountain and get behind some rocks in a little depression.
- c) Move further along the ridge-line to get into timber.
- d) Go down the windward side of the mountain to seek protection in the tall trees.

Anything high or prominent can easily attract lightning. For best protection, b should be your choice — head for the depression behind some rocks.

It is best to move to a low area before the storm gets to you. If you have a metal pack frame, it could be a good idea to place it about 20 feet away. In the timbered areas, taller trees normally attract lightning, and in high open areas, any trees can do the same.

Traveling to Europe this summer? Anxious to find ways to keep the cost down?

Because of the overwhelming turnout at a recent European Travel Workshop, American Youth Hostels is sponsoring a second one at 1 p.m. Saturday in the AYH office, 3024 Coolidge, Berkeley.

A panel of experts consisting of travel agents and recent European travelers will give pointers and answer questions on European travel. Everything from what to take to how to get around while there will be discussed.

The workshop fee of \$2.50 will cover refreshments and a supply of handouts to take home. After the workshop, participants will be able to purchase items such as hostel memberships, budget travel guidebooks, backpacks and more.

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization which is in the business of providing low-cost accommodations called hostels and promoting their use through hosteling — "traveling under your own steam."

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