

## outdoors



### Nature photos on display

Bill Leonard of Birmingham took first place in the color slide division of the Oakland County parks spring photo competition with this wildflower picture taken at Independence Oaks County Park. Winning photos will be on display July 6-30 in the first floor lobby of the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

## 12th Metropark features nature center and wetlands

Indian Springs Metropark, a new 1,681-acre nature-oriented site north of Pontiac, is now open for public use.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority has invested more than \$3.1 million in the park, including \$2.5 million for land acquisition. The 12th HCMA metropark is at 5200 Indian Trail, Clarkston.

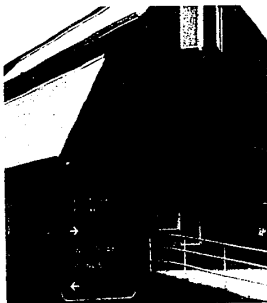
Another \$638,600 was invested in the solar-heated Nature Center Building, entrance road, parking lot, paved trails for the handicapped and landscaping, according to David Laidlaw, director of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

The Huron Swamp, the park's greatest natural resource, is the heart of the Interpretive Program at Indian Springs.

The Nature Center has exhibits, lecture areas, greenhouse, public restrooms, naturalist office and workshop.

There are approximately seven miles of nature trails that take visitors through parts of the swamp, woodlands, meadows and fields. They offer a first-hand encounter with the plants and animals, Laidlaw said.

During the summer, the Nature Center will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday.



The new nature center at Indian Springs Metropark has indoor displays.

### Learn to cook by campfire

Outdoor gourmets can explore campfire cooking by attending "Campfire Cuisine," a nature interpretive program at Independence Oaks County Park at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

"Learn how to cook some good wholesome campfire food like bannock (biscuits on a stick) or banana boats," said naturalist aide Karen Blake.

No special equipment is necessary, but participants are urged to bring insect repellent.

Meeting place is Lakeview Fire Circle. Program cost is the park entry fee of \$2.50 per car for Oakland County residents.

Independence Oaks is on Sashabaw Road off the I-75 exit at Clarkston.

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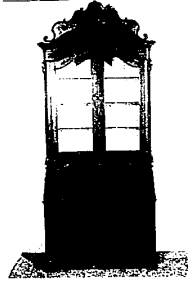
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