

# Teacher wins special honor

A Garden City high school teacher who developed the school's outdoor education program won a special honor from the Michigan United Conservation Clubs at a banquet held recently in Adrian.

Art Dittmar, 47, of 22167 West Brandon, Farmington Hills, who admits being an avid hunter and fisherman, won the special conservation award for his work in "the field of natural resource management," said Thomas Washington, MUCC executive director. The club is a federation of groups interested in hunting, fishing, and the environment.

Dittmar was nominated by West High School Principal Daniel Quinn for his work in developing the school's outdoor education curriculum and for working with students in related activities.

In nominating Dittmar for the award, Quinn wrote MUCC that he has known the teacher since he came to the

Garden City Public Schools 20 years ago. Dittmar organized and wrote West's outdoor education course, a one-year program for students. "The course is now in its second year and has proved to be one of the most popular and most successful courses taught at West," Quinn said.

The course covers wildlife, wildlife management, fish and fisheries management, forestry, water pollution, shooting sports, archery, camping, rod building and repair, reel maintenance, fly tying, and fishing instructions.

IN ADDING a personal note to the nomination, Quinn said Dittmar taught him how to fly cast in about 15 minutes although the principal had never done it before.

"Since there is no textbook for the (outdoor education) course, Dittmar has made every attempt possible to

take his classes on field trips," the principal said.

"He and his students have attended the Western Wayne County Conservation Association (meetings) to familiarize themselves with shooting of shotguns," he added.

The teacher has qualified 76 students for hunter safety certificates. In the past two years, Dittmar has organized and published a wild game and fish recipe cookbook which had 450 copies sold.

The profits from the "bestseller" was used to buy additional materials for the outdoor education course.

Besides his classroom responsibilities, Dittmar volunteers to sponsor the school's Sportsmen's Club which started with 25 members last year and now has 37.

A highlight of the club's year is a weekend field trip at Tippy Dam, Mich. Teenagers aren't the only ones who benefit from a good outdoor education. Dittmar has also taught sports fishing in the Garden City adult education program for the last six years and has watched it grow to be one of the most popular selections.

DITTMAR COMES naturally to his love of the outdoors.

He was born and raised on a farm in Romulus and grew up in an outdoor setting.

He came to the Garden City School District 22 years ago, earning his BS and MS degrees from Eastern Michigan University.

Dittmar taught junior high science before moving up to the high school level to teach biology, earth science, physical science and outdoor education.

He has held membership and leadership positions in numerous conservation groups, including charter president of the Four Seasons Fishing Club, Western Wayne County Conservation Association, past director of the Detroit chapter of the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fisherman's Association, chairman of the MUCC's fisheries committee.

He is current a hunter safety clinic instructor and a marine safety instructor for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and a National Rifle Association rifle, pistol, shotgun and home firearms safety teacher.

Dittmar says he was a fisherman by age 4 and a hunter by 14.

To one's surprise, he lists hunting, fishing and related activities as his main hobbies.

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## Artist visits Plate Lady

Frances Hook, who work includes porcelain collector plates and hand-painted porcelain bisque sculptures, will visit with collectors from 1-5 p.m. July 11 at the Plate Lady, 16347 Middlebelt, Livonia.

The store carried the collector plates in four-piece sets. The plates are numbered, limited editions of 15,000 and sell for \$29.95 each. Plate Lady also sells the porcelain bisque sculptures which began her popularity with collectors in 1980.

The sculptures reflect the style used by Hook 25 years ago when she created the children used in advertisements for Northern Tissue. The collection consists of 18 figurines from four to eight inches high, priced from \$25-\$64.

Collectors who wish to reserve any of Hook's work in advance so she can autograph it may call the store at 261-5220.



Frances Hook

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