

outdoors

Maybury park adds horse rentals

By Tom Meese
outdoors writer

Maybury State Park has some of the finest wooded bridle paths in southern Michigan, but until this week you were out of luck unless you provided your own horse.

"We have a new horse rental stable," said Tony Klain, manager of the 7-year-old park in the northwest corner of Wayne County. "Entrance is at 20145 Beck Road, south of Eight Mile."

"A lot of people in this area have horses, but a lot don't and inquired about rentals," Klain went on.

"Our concessionaire is Dean Carmoney, who has operated our concession at Waterloo for years and did a real good job. Last year he became the concessionaire at Highland. John Clark is his manager."

"The state provides the building, a 40-by-60-foot barn, which eventually will house 30 horses. Hours will be Tuesdays

through Sundays from 10 to 6."

Maybury's rolling hills are already well known to local hikers, who fanned out 150,000 strong during 1981. The eight miles of bridle paths cross the bicycle and footpaths only rarely.

As the season develops, said Klain, three horse services will be available:

- Horse rental and riding, guided by stable employees. Rate is \$7 an hour. Special group rates and riding lessons are also available by appointment.

- Pony rides for youngsters in an arena. Fee is \$4 per half-hour.

- Fall hayrides and winter sleighrides. As of Friday, the telephone should be installed, and the concessionaire's number is 345-9210 (Northville).

"WORK is coming along slowly on Maybury's fishing pond near the day camp."

"We tried filling it with water, but we lost a lot because of the permeable soil in the bottom," said Klain. "So we stayed the

bottom. This isn't like impounding a stream."

Last spring the DNR crews began filling the pond again with water, and the fisheries division stocked it with small bluegills and fingerling bass.

Kids may be able to enjoy the panfish by spring. The bass take longer to grow, however.

Maybury, a former city of Detroit tuberculosis hospital, was taken over by the state in the early 1970s. It is unusual among state parks because it has no major running stream or natural lake in its boundaries.

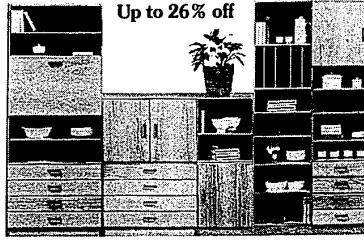
"CREATING A Backyard Bird Sanctuary" is the topic of a two-hour workshop Monday on the Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College.

The workshop will begin at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Building of the campus at 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake. Fee is \$5.

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