

outdoors

Better fishing, best wildflowers due in Oakland

By Lem Messee
outdoors writer

Whether your idea of nature is fish or wildflowers, now is your time of year. In some spots, anglers are already active, and the best wildflower season of the year is fast approaching.

Pontiac Lake has been restocked with 27,000 gamefish from four inches to 15 pounds in weight, according to Ron Spittler, Department of Natural Resources district fish biologist.

Pontiac also received 600,000 northern pike fry and 1,400 pounds of minnows. Expect good fishing by late summer.

While you're waiting for the gamefish to grow up, try Pontiac for perch and sunfish which survived the tragic die-off of 1982. They grew wildly last summer and provided some good angling by last fall.

Pontiac's water level, you'll recall, was drawn down for emergency dam repairs a year ago. Severe oxygen depletion under the ice resulted in the fish kill.

Lakeville, a 460-acre lake in northeast Oakland County, should produce good panfishing this summer after the 1982 fish-spawning project, Spittler said. Thousands of stunted panfish were poisoned. Only one was found as long as seven inches. Some 8,000 pounds of big

carp were killed off, too.

A fall survey at Lakeville showed the average size of bluegill had grown a full inch since the toxicification project in May.

At Tippecanoe Lake in northwest Oakland County, look for good numbers of catchable bass this summer and perhaps some keeper muskies (30 inches) by late summer. Bluegills and crappies should be good this year, too.

Tippecanoe was treated for total fish removal in 1980-81 and restocked. Surveys in summer of 1982 showed excel-

lent largemouth bass and muskie populations, Spittler said.

Other Oakland lakes which received plantings in recent weeks are Union, Maceday, Deer and Dickinson.

NOVICE OBEDIENCE training for dogs will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 6, in an all-breed class sponsored by the German Shepherd Dog Club of Detroit Inc. The location will be the front lawn of Southfield Civic Center, Evergreen at Civic Center Drive. Eight sessions will be conducted.

At the same time, the club will hold conformation classes for German shepherds only. Dexter Goulston at 476-1495 has registration information.

NATURE PROGRAMS coming up at Huron-Clinton Metroparks this weekend and telephone numbers for pre-registration include:

• "Mighty Mouse Hunters," about our friends the owls, 7:30 p.m. Friday, nature center of Stony Creek Metropark northeast of Rochester; naturalist Roger Bajorek will lead the prow; 781-4621.

• "Tiptoe through the Trilliums," 10:30 a.m. Saturday, nature center of Indian Springs Metropark near Clarkston; naturalist Karen Blake will lead the trek through the forest to look for wildflowers and says to dress for the weather and bring your camera; 625-2781.

• "Wildlife Serenade," a family nature walk, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, nature center of Indian Springs Metropark; after a brief slide presentation, naturalist Julie Cerbus will lead the 1½-hour trip

to the concert of frogs, toads and owls; 625-2781.

• "Nature by Bike" tour, 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Kensington Metropark west of New Hudson; naturalist Andy Reitzloff will conduct the two-hour tour on trails through woods and on lake shores; bring your own bike and meet in the nature center parking lot; 625-1561.

• "Spring Wildflowers," a family nature walk, 10 a.m. Sunday, Indian Springs Metropark; naturalist Julie Cerbus will lead the two-hour walk along woodland trails; 625-2781.

OU offering night credits

Oakland University will offer credit courses during the evenings beginning Tuesday, May 3, in several communities including Birmingham and West Bloomfield.

Class topics include accounting, sociology, marching band, Shakespeare, China, dance, theatre, drawing, newswriting, substance abuse, law of the press, technical writing, law and politics, public relations, Biblical and Western art.

During the spring session, students may take extension classes without being admitted to the university. Registration will be conducted at the first class session.

Schedules are available from the Oakland University Extension program, 377-4010.

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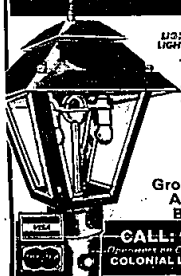
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