

# Park gets paved roads, bigger nature center

By Lem Massee  
outdoors writer

Two major improvements have been completed at Indian Springs Metropark, a 2,000-acre site near Clarkston. This was announced by James Clarkson, who represents Oakland County on the board of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, which operates 13 Metroparks.

A 3,000 square foot, three-wing addition to the Nature Center Building has been completed at a cost of about \$153,000 and is now open for public use. The additions provide a new multipurpose room, a classroom for interpretive programs, expanded nature exhibit space and additional storage and work areas.

Exhibits include such topics as pond life and live snakes, foot prints, solar energy and late summer in a swamp. One table contains animal pelts which school age children may touch.

The Nature Center is open during the school year, weekdays 1-5 p.m., with mornings reserved for school groups by advance appointments and weekends 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Naturalists are on duty to explain exhibits or answer questions.

Naturalists provide a lecture or field trip to schools or other civic groups by advance appointments on Tuesday through Friday mornings. Information and reservations are available by contacting Indian Springs Metropark — 1-800-552-6772 (toll-free).

The nature study area has three nature trails:

Woodland, a swampland trail of towering trees and traces of past lumbering.

Farmland, old fields fence rows and some woodlands.

Pondside, a short, hard-surfaced trail offering views of the pond and its plant and animal life. The trails are labeled for self-guided hikes in all seasons.

The nature program is directed by Thomas Smith, chief of interpretive services for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. Stephen Horn is supervising naturalist and is assisted by park naturalists Mike Broughton, Julie Cerbus and Karen Blake.

The other major improvement is the 2.6-mile road system that has been paved through the park at a cost of \$119,000.

Indian Springs Metropark covers about 2,000 acres and has a five-mile paved bike-hike trail, picnic area, shelter, roadways and parking lots in addition to the Nature Center Building. Fall color is an attraction in late September and October and cross-country skiing is popular at the park in the winter.

SATURDAY'S obedience trial of the Sportsman's Dog Training Club of Detroit has attracted 258 entries, according to club spokesman Mira Jilbert of Troy.

The event will be in the Community Arts Building of the Michigan State Fairgrounds, Woodward south of Eight Mile, Detroit. Admissions are \$2 and \$1.

## outdoors

Judging for the six-ring event will start at 9 a.m., and the high-scoring dog is expected to be picked by mid-afternoon.

SIERRA CLUB of Detroit throws its doors open to interested non-members for the opening session of the season at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3. Meeting place is Northwest Unitarian Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway service drive (between Nine and 10 Mile roads), Southfield.

Dr. Eugene Perrin, professor anthropology at Wayne State University, will speak on "Vanishing Tomorrows — or Is Planning a Bad Word?" A Sierra member for 25 years, Dr. Perrin has 30 years of experience with endangered species.

FALL COLOR tours of the Oakland County countryside will be offered through October by the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Sept. 29 and Oct. 12 tours for individuals and families will be guided by a naturalist. Participants will meet at Independence Oaks County Park and visit a dairy, cider mill, and historical villages by bus.

Fee is \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children 12 and under. Pre-registration by Sept. 23 for the Sept. 29 tour, and by Oct. 7 for the Oct. 12 tour by calling 625-6473.

Independence Oaks County Park is on Sashabaw, 2 1/4 miles north of I-75, near Clarkston.

The county parks office also will rent buses to groups for Oakland County fall color tours. Two separate routes are available. Both begin at Waterford Oaks County Park, on Watkins Lake Road, between Scott Lake and Pontiac Lake roads, near Pontiac.

Three 44-passenger buses and one 34-passenger bus with a handicap lift are available for an eight-hour rental fee of \$110 per group. Additional time and fuel expenses are paid by the group, which must provide its own trip director.

For complete information on group color tours call the parks office.

STONY CREEK Metropark near Rochester has three nature center programs:

An "Owl Prowl", with a slide program and nature walk in search of owls, will be held on Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

"Fall Bloomers", a slide program and nature walk, will be Saturday, Sept. 28, at 1 p.m.

"What Happens to the Woollybear", about the colorful fall caterpillar, will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 1 p.m.

Advance registration is required. Call 1-800-552-6772 (toll-free).

A vehicle entry permit is required. Programs are free.

KENSINGTON Metropark will have three nature programs at the Nature Center. The schedule:

"Fossil Finding," including slides, specimens, discussion and collecting. Saturday, Sept. 28, at 1:30 p.m. Bring bags for collecting.

"Southbound Birds," a field trip in search of migrating birds, on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m.

"Fall Flowers Folklore", will be Sunday, Sept. 29, at 2 p.m.

To register call 1-800-552-6772 (toll-free).

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