

Pheasant season is only fair; ducks slow

By Lem Meese outdoors writer

It's not a good hunting season for purists. Pheasant season in northern Oakland County opened with heavier pressure than normal but only "fair" success, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials reported. That it was fair was due to plantings by DNR. On private land, only a few pheasants were found. Native birds were "few and far between," they told us.

Waterfowl hunting is slow, and success is poor, for a variety of reasons. One is the drought conditions that cut the crop of young birds drastically. This fall Michigan will see only 83 million ducks fly south vs. 80 million last year. Farmers have planted a lot of former wetlands.

Duck regulations have been tightened by federal authorities this year.

A DOG training class opens at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, Mira Jilbert tell us.

She's the lady in Troy who works with the Sportsman's Dog Training Club. Class site is the Ferndale VFW Hall at 177 Vester, a block north of Nine Mile and a half-block east of Woodward.

Bring your dog's health certificate stating the dog is free from infectious diseases and internal parasites, including heartworm if the dog is old enough

to have lived during the 1984 mosquito season.

For registration information, call the club at 628-3218 any time or call 541-9795, 7-10 p.m. Monday, Tuesday or Thursday.

The course is open to dogs at least six months old. It meets one evening a week — and then there's homework. If you love dogs enough to share your home with one, then it's sensible to make it worthwhile by investing time and training to make your dog a lady or gentleman.

GET IN SHAPE before you go deer hunting the last two weeks in November, says the American Heart Association.

Hunters should see their doctors before the trip for an appropriate exercise plan," said Dr. Joseph Rogers, chairman of the Michigan chapter's exercise committee.

And as every reader of my brother columnist Barry Franklin knows, cold weather places an extra strain on the heart.

Signs of heart attack include: a feeling of fullness, heaviness or squeezing pain in the center of the chest and spreading to the arms, shoulders, neck or jaws; nausea, vomiting, sweating or shortness of breath.

Most rules are common sense — don't hunt alone, know where to get help, get plenty of rest.

And watch the intake of firewater.

outdoors

Alcohol may make you feel warmer, but it also causes you to lose body heat.

THE BIKE-HIKE trail at Kensington Metropark in western Oakland County will go all the way around Kent Lake next year.

ABC Paving Co. of Trenton was awarded a \$373,000 contract to construct an additional two miles of trail. The extension will provide eight feet of paving and a 110-foot-long bridge over the Huron River from the east boat launch past the golf course to

the west boat launch.

A federal land and water conservation grant provided \$129,500 of the cost.

LOTS OF nature programs are still going on at the Hanes-Clinton Metroparks. Rules are still the same. Entry is free once you've paid admission at the park gate; register in advance by calling the toll free 1-800-852-0772.

Here's next week's lineup: Kensington, north of I-96 near Mil-

ford — "Wings over the Water," 10 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 3, observation of ducks, geese, coots, gulls and other water birds. "How Animals Find Food," 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, a 1 1/2-mile walk.

Indian Springs, near Clarkston — "Paper Maché Wildlife Sculpture," 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3.

Stony Creek, northeast of Rochester — "Snowshoe Tying Workshop," 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2 (kits are \$40 per pair), "Fall's Last Footsteps," 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3.

Senior services book ready at CSA offices

Oakland County seniors, retirees and their families have another chance to get a copy of "Caring and Sharing," the 248-page guidebook to senior services throughout the county.

Copies from a new printing are off the press and available at Catholic Social Services (CSS) five county offices.

"We had such a flood of requests last month that the first printing lasted just three weeks and we ended up with hundreds of unfilled requests," said Margaret A. Huggard, the agency's executive director in Oakland County. "We simply underestimated how much this kind of countywide information would be needed."

Cross-indexed by subject matter, the guidebook includes names, addresses,

phone numbers and descriptions of services offered to seniors by private organizations and units of government located in Oakland County.

Copies are available for \$2, the cost of the printing, at these offices: Royal Oak at 1424 E. Eleven Mile, (548-4044); Pontiac at 53 Franklin Blvd., (334-3595); Highland at 1836 N. Milford (897-3726); Farmington Hills at 29825 Inletter, (851-7180); Birmingham at 1658 E. Lincoln (646-1040).

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