

# outdoors Bill Parker Duck carving reaps awards for artisan

WHEN LIVONIA's Richard Sprague was a young boy he often spent hours watching his father whittle away at a piece of cedar until it took the likeness of a duck.

As a youngster Sprague dabbled in decoy carving, mostly so he and his dad would have a full line of decoys handy when duck season rolled around.

More recently Sprague began to take his carving seriously. He began to spend more time on his projects in an attempt to make some of them more lifelike.

"I used to make decoys with my dad when I was a young fellow back in the late '40s and early '50s," said Sprague. "About eight years ago my wife suggested I try it again, so I did. Now I'm hooked."

"I love the outdoors and I like to duck hunt. I always try to make the decoys look as real as possible."

DECOY CARVERS generally use one of three kinds of wood: basswood, jelutong (from a Malaysian rubber tree) or tupelo (from a Louisiana gum tree). Cedar is also used, especially for service, or hunting, decoys.

Carvers spend eight to 10 hours working on a service decoy and anywhere from 120 to 200 hours on a decorative decoy.

But those long hours pay off, especially for Sprague who has won numerous awards for his carvings, including the Best of the Show Awards at Traverse City in 1985, Potters Lake in Flint in 1985, and a Virginia Beach show in March of this year.

Sprague's carvings, along with some of the best wildlife art in the country will be on display when 60 nationally known artists gather Thursday through Sunday at the Michigan Wildlife Art Festival at the Southfield Civic Center.

WEST BLOOMFIELD's Heiner Hertling (the soccer coach at West Bloomfield High School) will also have some of his wildlife paintings on display at the show. He was last year's feature artist at the Michigan Wildlife Art Festival and 450 prints of his painting depicting a ruffed grouse walking in the snow were sold at the show, with the proceeds going to the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation.

"I've been painting wildlife since 1981 when I started with water fowl. But lately I've been doing all types of wildlife," said Hertling.

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

It's yo-yo time of year for Mark VanderMey.

The junior swimming sensation at Oakland University finished what should have been his biggest collegiate meet of the season March 14, when he helped the Pioneers place second in the NCAA Division II championships in Long Beach, Calif.

Actually, helped may be too mild a term to describe VanderMey's contributions. He won the Division II title in the 100-yard breaststroke in 55.59, then placed second in both the 200 breast (2:02.31) and 200 individual medley (1:50.37). His times in the 100 breast and 200 IM were OU records.

His times also were good enough to qualify him in all three events for the NCAA Division I meet this weekend at the University of Texas in Austin. Which is why VanderMey is submerged in another yo-yo season.

## people in sports

UNDERSTAND, MOST swimmers train for months for a single meet, starting with long-distance workouts and slowly tapering and resting as they approach the event. VanderMey had no such luxury; he tapered for the Division II meet, returned home and immediately started a quick taper for the Division I meet.

"I went up in yardage a couple of days," explained VanderMey, "then cut back. For me now, this is just another big swim meet. I get up for

it the same way I get up for the Division I meet."

If VanderMey sounds tired, he should. He did the same thing last summer, only he tapered for five major meets in a six-month stretch. After winning the 100 breast at last year's Division II championships, VanderMey got ready for the Division I meet, the World Trials, the Goodwill Games and the Long Course Nationals.

"The whole summer, I was tapering," he said. "I was pretty burned out by the end."

THIS IS by no means intended as an excuse for however VanderMey performs this weekend. The media none; his accomplishments stand on their own merit. But this meet is different, and VanderMey plans to approach it differently than a year ago.

"It's a lot different," he admitted. "There are world-class swimmers

## Nationals ice win

A wild final period marked the Little Caesar's-sponsored high school all-star hockey game Sunday at University of Michigan-Dearborn, with the Michigan Nationals outscoring the Michigan Americans 3-2 in the period and 5-3 for the game.

Sean Skinner supplied the Nationals with the clinching goal, scoring into an empty net in the final minute. It was the second goal of the game for the Livonia Stevenson star.

Bill Dorrough, from Livonia Churchill, also scored a goal for the Nationals, and Sean Flynn of Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook added two assists. Flynn was voted the game's No. 1 star.

Tim Olschanski (Livonia Franklin)

## hockey

added an assist and Fred Calkins (Stevenson) was in goal for the first period for the Nationals, surrendering one goal. Cranbrook defenseman Todd MacCallum also performed well for the winners.

Redford Catholic Central Lee Ziegler scored one of the three goals for the Americans.

The Nationals bounced back after trailing 1-0 after one period to take a 2-1 lead into the last period.

## Falcons improve

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Bob Curtis, a righthander and the team's top hurler — he'll also play third base; senior Art Eastman, a lefthander who "throws strikes"; junior Darin Magera, a lefthander; and junior George Hansen, a righthander.

Eastman and Magera are slated for outfield duty when not throwing. The Falcon catcher could be the key player on the team: senior Dave Mote, who batted near .300 and possesses great defensive skills.

But quality ballplayers are still lacking at Farmington. Two of the team's starters might be players

## baseball

who haven't been on the field in two years: senior shortstop Jason Connor, who missed last season due to academic woes, and senior outfielder Pat Tschudi, who was sidelined by a car accident in '86.

With so many players limited in experience, it could very well be another long year for Farmington. But it won't be as long as last year.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

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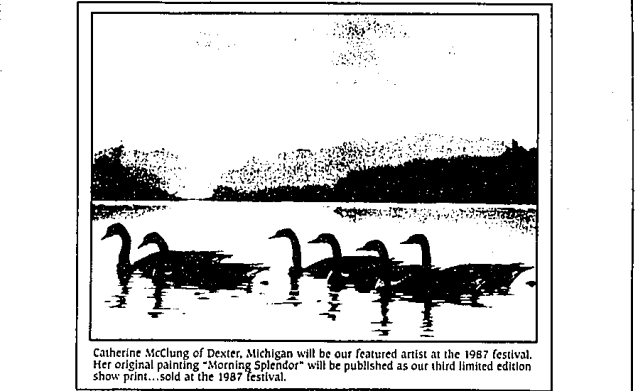
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# Michigan Wildlife Art Festival



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<p>Show hours:</p> <p>Thursday, April 2 "Preview" Sponsors Only</p> <p>Friday, April 3 11 am to 10 pm</p> <p>Saturday, April 4 9 am to 9 pm</p> <p>Sunday, April 5 10 am to 6 pm</p> <p>Admission charge:</p> <p>\$3.00 daily</p> <p>\$4.00 weekend pass</p> <p>\$2.00 children under 12</p>	<p>Workshop Schedule Fee — \$2 per session</p> <table> <tr> <th>Friday</th><th>Saturday</th></tr> <tr> <td>1:30 Airbrush</td><td>1:30 Watercolors</td></tr> <tr> <td>3:30 Decoy Carving</td><td>3:30 Decoy Carving</td></tr> <tr> <td>6:30 Photography</td><td>6:30 Photography</td></tr> </table>	Friday	Saturday	1:30 Airbrush	1:30 Watercolors	3:30 Decoy Carving	3:30 Decoy Carving	6:30 Photography	6:30 Photography
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