

WSU to house Rouge archives

Wayne State University is now part of the Rouge River cleanup team.

With an \$80,000 grant from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), WSU will set aside a portion of its Science and Engineering Library to house existing and future reports and documents about the Rouge River.

"This information will provide a single resource of all of the history of efforts and all the data on the Rouge River to help on that process," said Ralph Kummeler, chair of the chemical and metallurgical engineering department at WSU.

THE ROUGE River archive will supply the centralized store of information necessary for cleanup efforts. Kummeler and Thomas M. Heidtke, associate professor of civil

engineering, will head the project at Wayne State.

"The Natural Resource Commission and the Water Resources Commission, with the support of Gov. James J. Blanchard, have made a big commitment to clean up the Rouge River by the year 2005," Kummeler said.

The Science and Engineering Library on the main campus in Detroit will house the archive in perpetuity at no cost, Kummeler added.

The collection will be available to the public on a reference basis during library hours, presently more than 90 hours a week. The material will be catalogued using standard rules which allow entry of descriptive records into machine-readable databases and will be accessible via the WSU online catalog, an easy-to-use computer system.

Oakland recruits more local bidders

Oakland County has published a booklet on "doing business" with county government for the benefit of area vendors.

"The purchasing function is vitally important to all of us in government and to all businesses and citizens who are concerned with the prudent expenditure of public funds," County Executive Daniel F. Murphy said.

Vendors can become eligible to do business by:

- 1) Getting on the Master Bid List. Bid lists are maintained by the county purchasing division at 1200 N.

Telegraph, Pontiac; Road Commission, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac; and Oakland Intermediate School District, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Pontiac.

- 2) Following trade journals, in which the county solicits bids and proposals from vendors.
- 3) Reading newspaper legal ads to learn about county purchasing plans.

A copy of the county's booklet, "A Guide to Doing Business with Oakland County," is available from the central purchasing division at #58-0511.

Nature center lauds volunteers

Independence Oaks County Park is saying thanks to the volunteers who donate their time to the Nature Center.

And it's also trying to inform potential volunteers of needs for their services by hosting a "spring volunteer refresher" on Saturday, April 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Aside from showing our gratitude, we hope to renew the enthusiasm of past volunteers and ignite some enthusiasm in potential ones as well," said volunteer coordinator Lynn Conover.

The park is on Sashabaw Road, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75, near Clarkston.

Individuals interested in attending the volunteer refresher should call

the Nature Center at 625-6473 no later than April 23.

THE EVENT will include an indoor training session led by assistant naturalist Kathy Thomas. She will discuss what volunteers should know about wild animals, how to handle them and what to do when creatures are encountered on the trails.

Conover will take participants outdoors to reveal techniques to enhance nature walks. "These tips are important because they make field trips more enjoyable for the participants," she said.

Conover will also discuss areas where volunteer assistance is needed. Hummingbird feeders will be presented as special recognition

mentees to those who donated more than 30 hours last year.

Volunteers are needed for all areas of the Nature Center. "Someone who is shy may be artistically inclined, which is vitally important for exhibits. Or, a person who has great communication skills may 'work the phones' for us," Conover said.

"Overall, an ideal volunteer is someone who can give of himself and share his or her special skills to enhance the lives of others."

— waitresses, counselors, photographers, cosmetologists — comprised the 46 volunteers who donated more than 500 hours to the Nature Center in 1996.

Dedicated in 1985, the 4,000-square-foot Nature Center is open Tuesday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the school year.

The center is staffed by three full-time naturalists who conduct weekly interpretive programs, coordinate and instruct school or group visits, and assist with individual exploration of the center and Independence Oaks County Park.

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