

# He works to spread love of nature

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"We are not equipped to tackle the destruction of tropical rain forests or the killing of whales worldwide. But trouble in the Great Lakes ecosystem is something we can have a tremendous effect upon," he said.

"I want us to offer all of our resources toward the improvement of air and water quality and natural habitat in the area we know best, which is right here at home."

He also wants to dispel the myth that Audubon members are concerned only with birds.

"We're the ones who go hiking so we're the ones who see the impact of the toxic water, the air pollution, the exhaust incinerator, the misdirection of our solid waste. We're the ones who are the most aware of all the facets of the ecology," Huffman said.

NEW NATURALISTS are gained every time "we can get a newcomer out on a hike," Huffman said.

"It's very easy for us to show him what we're protecting and enhance his understanding — just by showing. Our job now is to make everyone aware of the trade-offs of one new building against maybe the last trillion patch or the last duck sanctuary in the entire Great Lakes region," he said.

The Audubon chapter offers educational materials to enhance classroom study; afternoon, overnight, weekend field trips and bus tours throughout the four seasons; and a wildlife film series.

A paid staff takes calls in the rental offices at 121 S. Main, Royal Oak. It is the source for information dispersed to a number of environmental councils, the Department of National Resources, the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club "or any one else who wants information," Huffman said. "The staff is not sel-

ing anything. They are there to answer questions."

Members have access to a bookstore and are invited to hear a speaker each month. In addition to dues, the society's major fund-raiser is the sale of bird seed. The society is led by a 35-member board.

"MEMBERS ARE drawn to the society by their love of the outdoors and want to learn more, experience more of the subtleties, like hearing an owl calling at night in the dead of winter, migrations, nesting behaviors," Huffman said.

"Did you know that during one 45-minute period in the Detroit area, there are thousands of monarch butterflies here, literally dripping off the trees?" he asked.

"We have experts in these fields who lead others for the first time, and then they are the ones who lead others. We feel it's our duty to show others all we have here and educate them on how to protect it," he said.

Huffman grew up in Oakland County, graduated from Ferndale High School and earned a business degree at Oakland University. He was hired as an accountant for LaSalle Electric Supply Co., Livonia. "But after I found sales, I wouldn't ever consider changing," he said. He now works as sales representative for the supply company.

Huffman joined the Detroit Audubon Society in 1980 and served on its political action committee and as vice president before he was elected president in January.

# Farmington crime is down slightly

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"This is one of the few areas law enforcement can make a positive change," Lauhoff said. "Vehicles are being stopped . . . and we're citing everyone in the car, sometimes. We're trying to get the message across."

This emphasis will also affect the accident rate, Lauhoff said. "With not experienced drinkers and inexperienced drivers, you have a potential deadly situation."

Arrests increased markedly in narcotics, another area of focus for the department. Officers received retraining in drug enforcement during the past year, Lauhoff added. "We know there is quite a bit of drug usage out there," he added. Arrests in drug-related cases were up 130 percent.

Because of community concern over speeding drivers they were also targeted by the department in

1987, which is revealed in the statistics.

A RECORD number of traffic tickets, 5,662, were issued in 1987 compared with 5,056 in 1986. At the same time, traffic stops with warnings to drivers were down by more than 700.

Lauhoff said many of the 606 additional tickets were for speeding in the downtown area.

"We were listening to the citizens," he said. "They were saying we had a speed problem on Grand River. We believe you warn and warn people, and it will only be effective to a certain degree."

"We expect them to drive the speed limit — that's what we want to get across."

Traffic enforcement was consistent throughout the year, he said, with selective enforcement in certain areas of the city.

## clarification

Lori Benedek, a 11th grader at North Farmington High School, was left off of the honor roll list provided by the school and recently published in the Observer.

She should have been on the list of students who have 3.0-3.9 grade point averages.




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