

# Wildlife Art Festival begins

**W**ILDLIFE ART enthusiasts can visit one of the best wildlife art festivals in the nation at the Fifth Annual Michigan Wildlife Art Festival April 8-10 in Southfield.

Formerly held at the Civic Center, the festival has expanded this year and will be housed at three locations including the Civic Center, the Southfield Hilton and the Detroit Zoo.



Bill Parker outdoors

"The public demand forced us to expand," said festival coordinator Jan Holley. "Last year we had 20,000 people visit the show. With the limited space we had and the activities we had planned for the 1988 festival we had no choice but to expand. It's a very popular show."

Co-sponsored by the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation, the city of Southfield and the Detroit Zoo, the festival is the biggest wildlife art festival in the Midwest.

**PROCEEDS** From the sale of wildlife art and tax deductible contributions to the festival are used on a variety of projects by the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation. Last year the festival raised \$350,000 for the foundation.

"We're anticipating that 30,000 people will attend the festival this year," Holley said. "We hope to exceed the \$350,000 raised last year."

A portion of last year's proceeds helped support the Point Creek Project, a joint effort by the Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Michigan Department of

Natural Resources to restore Paint Creek, one of the few remaining trout streams in southern Michigan.

The Drayton Plains Rearing pond was partially funded by proceeds from previous shows as was the River Rouge Fish Habitat Demonstration and the Detroit Zoo Backyard Wildlife Demonstration. The River Rouge Demonstration, scheduled to take place this spring, will feature tips on ways to enhance your backyard to attract wildlife.

**STEVE GRAHAM**, director of the Detroit Zoo, is the honorary chairman of this year's festival.

"Conservation of wildlife habitat is the single, most important activity that can help to perpetuate wildlife itself," Graham said. "This year's festival features nationally renowned artists and carvers, and by attending you support projects to restore wildlife in Michigan."

Some of those nationally renowned

artists include this year's featured artist Bruce Miller, of Minnesota, and the 1987 and 1988 Federal Duck Stamp Contest winners Arthur Anderson (Wisconsin) and Dan Smith (Minnesota).

Many popular local artists will also display their artwork including the Festival's 1988 featured artist Heiner Hertling of West Bloomfield, decoy carver Richard Sprague of Livonia and Plymouth wildlife photographer Francis J. Baker.

**HIGHLIGHTING ACTIVITIES** at the Southfield Hilton will be the Michigan Trout and Duck Stamp contest. Sponsored by the DNR, the stamp contests is expected to draw better than 100 entries. Also on hand at the Hilton will be the complete set of Federal Duck Stamp prints (1958-1988) and the top 10 prints from the 1988 duck stamp contest.

On April 9, a live snowy owl and a rough-legged hawk will be on display at the Hilton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At the Zoo, decoy carving demonstrations by the Waterfowl Preservation and Decoy Club will be held in the reptile house.

Blinds will be set up for artists

throughout the zoo and the public will be able to watch the artists at work. The Zoo mini-trains and tractor-trains will also be running with docents providing tours of the Zoo all weekend.

On April 10, Graham will give personal tours, explaining about the wildlife and natural habitat within the zoo grounds.

**AT THE CIVIC CENTER**, 60 artists will display better than 1,000 pieces of art ranging from original paintings and limited edition prints to carvings, photographs and sculptures. An "Original Wildlife Art Auction," will also be held along with a decoy painting contest and a Remarque Contest/Silent Auction.

There will also be a People's Choice Award which the public can vote for their favorite artist.

A series of wildlife art demonstrations will also be held. On April 8, demonstrations will cover investing in wildlife art, watercolors and wildlife photography. On April 9, topics will include original etching techniques, investing in wildlife art and fish carving.

Admission for the show is \$5 adults, \$3.50 senior citizens and \$2.50 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 will be admitted free. Free parking will be available at all three sites and free shuttle service between sites will also be provided.

For more information about the show or details on specific events call the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation at (317) 882-3630, or (313) 356-5151 during show hours.

## Tourney atmosphere wins over a new fan

**Marty Budner**

Brad Emons, a colleague who works out of our office in Livonia, constantly promotes the virtues of college basketball. He attends as many games as he can, and, although he's never been to a Final Four, he has been to countless NCAA tournament games.

A well-known college hysteric, Emons emphatically extols the talent and intensity of college basketball. The atmosphere, he proclaims, is incomparable.

I'm a hockey nut at heart. He knows that.

But now I understand what Brad's been talking about all these years. Now I know why, after working all night Friday, he picks up and drives four, five, six hours to catch some collegiate cage clash in Indianapolis or Cincinnati on Saturday.

College tournament basketball, indeed, is exciting.

I attended my first NCAA basketball tournament games over the weekend. I hope they won't be my last.

As Emons says, it is a fantastic experience.

The talent is amazing. The action is fast. The atmosphere is tingling.

Allow me to offer a few impressions of the Midwest Regional Tournament hosted by the University of Detroit over the weekend at the Pontiac Silverdome.

• **Danny Manning** is an awesome player. He scored every way imaginable in Friday evening's victory over Vanderbilt. He was just as entertaining in Sunday's championship game against arch rival Kansas State. And, from a spectator's point of view, he seems to be a genuine good sport. Vandy center Will Perdue had fouled out with a few minutes left in Friday's game. When Manning came out of the game, he went over to the Vandy bench and shook Perdue's hand. It seemed to be a sincere sportsmanship.

• **How did Kansas State** ever beat Purdue? The Bollermakers, behind the outstanding shooting of Everett Stephens, looked unstoppable in the first half against K-State. But they fell apart in the second and the Wildcats were able to pull off the upset. K-State simply did not have enough left for Kansas on Sunday. State's Mitch Richmond, however, is a superb talent and a possible sleeper in the NBA draft.

• **There's no place like Dome.** That was the theme Sunday as Kansas met Kansas State in the regional championship game. The fans — the few who made the long trip from the heartland of America — were wild in their enthusiasm. In another show of sportsmanship, both sides rooted for each other Friday night in their separate games. That was quite a sight. Would Michigan and Michigan State fans do the same?

• **I got to chat** with a few local folks who attended the weekend's festivities. Cranbrook boys basketball coach Robert Rogers was in his glory as Kansas — his pre-tournament favorite — won and moved into the elite Final Four. Rochester girls basketball coach Tom Hawes was an interested spectator during Thursday's practice rounds. And Birmingham Country Club assistant golf pro Jeff Roth eschewed a few rounds on the links to take in some hardcourt action.

• **Finally, how did Purdue** ever lose?

**POOLING AROUND:** The McDermott Masters Midwest 9 Ball Championship will be held April 6-10 at the Troy Hilton Hotel. The women will compete on April 6 for the Midwest Women's title. The winners will be given a paid entry to stay over and compete in the 64-field men's tournament. It should be interesting watching the women compete for the men's Midwest title. Paul Roberts, a Bloomfield Hills Andover graduate who now works out of Los Angeles for Roberts and Co. promotions, is back in town doing publicity work for the tournament. Roberts says billiards is the number eight participation sport in the country according to a recent Gallup poll. General admission tournament tickets are \$7.50.

**SORRY, CHARLIE:** We ran a story last week about Birmingham's Charlie Blanchard and his role as a cyclist/jogger in "The First Pitch for CATCH" charity for Children's Hospital. Charlie will ride a bicycle from MacKinnon City to Pontiac with various predetermined stops in between. He will then jog the final miles from Pontiac to Tiger Stadium the morning of the Tigers' home opener April 12 against the Texas Rangers. Throughout the entire 475-mile, five-day journey, he will carry the ceremonial first ball to be thrown out by Detroit Mayor Coleman Young in pre-game festivities. In that story, it was mentioned he will be accompanied by his son. His son's name is Neal, not Leo. Incidentally, former Ecotour editor, Jim Hughes, who now works for Henry Ford Hospital, is involved heavily in the publicity end of the CATCH organization which Tigers manager Sparky Anderson crossed last summer. Hughes will accompany Blanchard around the state. No, he won't be cycling or jogging. He'll be driving the equipment van.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MANNIE:** Marnie Fishman celebrated his 75th birthday Tuesday at the Ann Sayles Dining Room in Royal Oak. The party, organized by Marnie's friend, Fran DeMarco, was attended by about 20 friends. Some of the party-givers included Marnie's nephew, Mike Gerard, a Groves graduate, Marnie's long-time friend and basketball teammate at both Detroit Northern and the University of Michigan, Harold Solomon, and other friends, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Osborn of Franklin. Marnie's special guest was his friend David Rubin, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Ex-Groves football coach Bill Rankin and coach Bob Rankin also dropped by to wish Marnie a happy birthday. As usual, Marnie reminisced about his playing days and old friends in the area. "Tell everyone I said hello, and that I miss seeing all of them," he said. Happy birthday, Marnie.

## outdoors calendar

### IMPORTANT DATES

• **April 5 — Acid Rain —** The Canadian Experience, a lecture on the Canadian Acid Rain Program and the effects of acid rain on Canadian lakes, rivers and streams, will be held at the Southfield Civic Center beginning at 7 p.m. The lecture will be presented by Giles Desbines of the Canadian Consulate General.

• **April 6 — Ducks Under Siege,** as film about the plight of waterfowl as wetlands are drained, will be shown at the Southfield Civic Center beginning at 7 p.m. Terry Youker, director of the Michigan Audubon Society, will explain what steps are being taken to help waterfowl and their habitat.

• **April 8-10 — 1988 Michigan Wildlife Art Festival,** featuring nationally known wildlife artists and their work, will be held at the Southfield Civic Center, the Southfield Hilton and the Detroit Zoo. For details, call (317) 882-3630.

• **April 23 — River Crab Salmon** Stakes fishing tournament will be held on Lake St. Clair beginning at 6 a.m. The tournament, co-sponsored by Chuck Muer's River Crab Restaurant and the Blue Water Sport Fishing Association, raised \$68,000 last

year for child abuse and neglect, and evaluation and treatment programs. Raffle/entry tickets are \$10 each and are good for \$10 off the price for dinner-for-two at Chuck Muer's restaurant. For more information, call 987-9539.

**METROPARKS**

• **Who Lives in the Woods,** a nature walk to explore legends, myths and facts about the moon, will be held Sunday at the Kensington Farm Center beginning at 1 p.m.

• **Easter Bunnies,** a program in which participants will be able to see a variety of farm babies including piglets, rabbits, lambs and a foal, will be held Sunday at the Kensington Farm Center beginning at 1 p.m. There is a \$4 cost per child, per session. For details, call 625-6473.

**OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS**

• **Fantastic Forests,** nature mini-classes involving hikes, games and crafts, will be held April 6-7 at Independence Oaks. Classes are for children 6-8 years old and begin at 1 p.m. There is a \$4 cost per child, per session. For details, call 625-6473.

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