#### outdoors calendar

IMPORTANT EVENTS AND
DATES

• Aug. 12-14 — Salmon Tournament in Roge askers, exhibitors, target courses, corn and pig roast, entertainment, something for the entertainment of the entertainment

for the Drummuna Samm.

Aug. 21 — U.S. Bass Fishing
Tournament in Cadillac. Call (616)
775-9776 for details.

Aug. 27 — Dick Beck Fishing
Tournament in Oscoda. Call 1-880235-COAL for details.

Aug. 27-28 — Muskegon
County Catch and Release Tournament in Muskegon. Call (616) 7223751 for details.

Aug. 27-28 — Steelheaders

ment in Muskegon. Call (616) 722-7351 for details.

• Aug. 27-28 — Steelheaders Tournament in Harbor Beach. Call 985-2866 for details.

• Through Aug 31 — Recieve 10 Colorado Blue Spruce trees for joining the National Arbor Day Foundation. To become a member send \$10 membership fee to Ten Blue Spruces, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Ne. 58410.

• Through Sopt. 30 — Lake Huron King Salmon Derby in Oscoda. Call 1-800-235-GOAI for detailts.

Most Metropark programs are free but require advanced reg-istration and a motor vehicle per-ruit. Call the Metroparks at 1-800-24-PARKS for additional informa-tics.

#### OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

• The Great Escape, a nature program for senior citizens including a talk on bluebirds, an all-visitor nature trail walk, a guided four of the nature center, Junch and refreshments, will be offered on eight occasions in August at Independence Oaks. Call Jackle McParlane at 858-0906 for details.

Blue Spruces, National Arbor Day
Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Ne. 68410.

Through Sopt. 30 — Lake
Huron King Salmon Derby in Oscoda. Call 1-800-235-GOAL for detalls.

Sept 8-11 — Michigan Huntling and Sports Show at Cobo Hall.

## outdoors

AP — Growing numbers of two exotic aquatic organisms — inad vertently brought to the Great Lakes as "stowaways" aboard ships from overseas — eventually might overtake native fish populations and disrupt the lakes' food chain, some scientists fear.

almer inland waters.

In many cases, the dumped ballast water — between 6 million and 10 million gallons per ship — comes from some of the world's most poluted harbors. Department of Natural Resources biologists say the organisms contained in the water can be "aggressive, adaptable and undestrable."

Both the alewives and the lamprey re thought to have gained access to are thought to have gained access to the Great Lakes through these same shipping channels, as well as the Eu-ropean flounder, the Chinese mitten crab, a half-dozen species of marine algae and the Asian clam. Biologists and Great Lakes mana-

gers said the two new species have them worrled.

The river ruffe and water flea were introduced into the Great Lakes system through dumping of ballasts from ocean-going vessels. Experts say they are worried the species could adversely affect the lakes and their multimillion-dollar flishing industry. THE RIVER rufle (pronounced rufl) first was reported in Duluth Harbor on Lake Superior in 1887. Biologists are concerned that the ruffe, a prolific spawner that can produce up to 100,000 eggs during spawning season, could dominate the native perch population in a matter of years.

The ruffe is a prolific fish from northern Europe that biologists say eventually might dominate native perch populations. The water filea is a small crustacean that scientists worry could disrupt the food chain and hurt salmon and trout fisheries. "The rulle is a very big concern. We're a little afraid of it based upon the European experience," said Margaret Dochoda, fisheries biologist for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. OVER THE past decade, as many as 600 overseas cargo ships a year entered Great Lakes waters with their ballast tanks full of water. The ballast is used to steady the ship at sea. It is dumped when reaching the calmer inland waters.

Studies of the annual fish catches between 1982 and 1986 on Scotland's Loch Lomond show perch comprised 69.9 percent of the catch in 1982 and only 2.1 percent in 1986. Over the same period of time, the ruffe portion of the catch increased from 8.1 percent to 63.2 percent.

WHERE RUFFE have infested Russian lakes, whitefish production has been reduced by 50 percent.

"It is not a good food source for other fish. It's not a good commercial or sport fish. It competes with perch and out-produces perch and is an active winter feeder that preys on whitefish eggs," Dochoda sald.

THE SECOND of the imported newcomers, bythotrephes cedestroe-mi, also known as the water flea, was reported in Lake Huron in 1984, In Lake Erie and Lake Ontario in 1985, and in Lake Michigan the fol-lowing year. By 1987, it was spotted throughout Lake Superior.

Biologists said the long-term ef-fects of its presence are unknown, but concerns have been expressed about the possibility of affecting the trout and salmon fishery.

They "have literally exploded in Lake Michigan," said Tom Doyle, fisheries biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The organism could be a new source of food for larger fish, but its presence also could have a negative impact on the salmon and trout fishery, Doyle said.

IT PREYS on smaller zooplankton called daphnia — the prime food for very young trout and salmon, Doyle said.

"From our point of view, the daphother fish. It's not a good commer-leal or sport fish. It competes with perch and out-produces perch and is an active winter feeder that preys on whitefish eggs," Dochoda sald.

"Right now the ruffe problem, is clocalized to Dultuh Harbor, but it's a river spawner and we blink that it is just a matter of time before we see it migrating along the coast line and

Doyle said. "Problems like this usu-ally do not shake out for a couple of

years."
Bythotrephes are about a half-inch long, with a long tail. Anglers fishing Lake Michigan are most likely to encounter them as a clump of organic material clinging to fishing lines and rod guides and eyes.

"It's a strange-looking critter," Doyle said.

Anglers could identify it by taking an accumulation off a rod, picking it apart and examining it with a mag-nifying glass, he said.

TO PREVENT bitchhiking organisms from entering the lakes, staff at various natural resource agencians are examining alternatives to having ships discharge their ballast water in the Great Lakes. The approaches being considered would require after occanegoing ships to disinfect their ballast tanks before discharging the water into the lakes, or a midoccan exchange of ballast water.

But the leaval intricacies of work-

But the legal intricacies of working out international agreements will require the cooperation of many parties, officials said.

"This is a basinwide problem. And we (the DNR) have not formulated a position on it," DNR fisheries division chief John Robertson said. "We are still trying to put background information together on the alternatives. But, I think it is a serious potential problem."

The department would work through its Office of the Great Lakes to get the issue before organizations like the International Joint Commission, and others whose membership is comprised of representatives from states and provinces that will need to cooperate to solve the problem, Robertson said.

### swimming

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN AGE GROUP SWIM LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boys 15-17 50 breast: 1. Donny Knoper (OVSC), 2279, 2 Dan Brandenberg (WAC), 3279, 3 Dres Barry (WAC), 33 11, 4 Kern 1, 2279, 3 Dres Barry (WAC), 33 11, 4 Kern 1, 2279, 3 Dres Barry (WAC), 33 11, 4 Kern 1, 2279, 3 Dres Barry (WAC), 33 11, 4 Kern 1, 2279, 3 Dres Barry (WAC), 32 (CSC), 32 Boys 7-8, 25 back: 1. Stary Had (WAC), 23 01, 6 Arms (Mac), 23 01, 6 Arms (Mac

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# 105.09 Boys 15-17 100 free: 1. David Schlüssel (BHAC), 57.02. 2. Enc Newton (FGAC), 57.21, 3 Danny Knapper (OVSC), 57.93, 4 Todd Van Haren (VAC), 58.07, 5. David Aron-Caswell Modernization

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