

Ferguson rocks bass circuit

ART FERGUSON III didn't care much for the loud, crazy nightlife that went along with being a punk rocker as he switched to a positive alternative fishing. And the change has been an outstanding one for the Rochester native and pro bass angler.

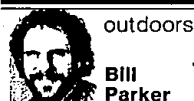
"I was in a punk rock band for a couple years, but I was getting sick of all the bad things that went along with it," said Ferguson. "I had some good friends and family members who helped get me out of all that bad stuff."

That was a few years ago, and since then Ferguson has been increasingly busy traveling up to 40,000 miles a year from tournament to tournament across the nation.

His most recent success came on June 30 when the 26-year old won the Operation Bass Red Man Michigan Division Qualifier on Saginaw Bay.

At the completion of six Michigan Division qualifiers the top 30 anglers, determined on a basis of pounds and points, will move on to a regional competition where they will compete against 120 other regional qualifiers. Ferguson is currently eighth in the Michigan Division after the first two events. He placed 44th in the opening tournament, June 2 on the Grand River.

FERGUSON NOT ONLY beat the competition on Saginaw Bay, but he



outdoors

Bill Parker

beat the odds as well.

Prior to the start of the tournament, Ferguson was experiencing problems with his boat which threatened to keep him out of the competition. But one of his sponsors, Ray's Sport Shop in Goodrich, loaned him a boat so he could participate.

Then, bad weather threatened to keep him off Saginaw Bay.

"Saginaw Bay is known for its wind," Ferguson explained. "There was a pretty good wind coming out of the northeast and we had four to five-foot waves as we left the Saginaw River. Of the 15 boats, about 20 of us tried to go out of the mouth of the river and 20 minutes later there were five or 10 left. I went further out than anyone else, all the way up to AuGres. There was a small group of fish off a reed point that had been there for three weeks every time the wind was out of the northeast. It took me about an hour and 40 minutes to get there, but I had a limit of five fish in 15 minutes. I knew, as long as I could get through the rough weather, I could get my limit."

Ferguson landed a total of 14

keepers that day. The five he kept to weigh in for the tournament totaled 11-pounds, 5-ounces. He caught all the fish by flipping Bitter Power Worms into reed points and was awarded \$2,531 for his winning effort. Ferguson's biggest fish this day was a 3-pound, 15-ounce. "A pretty good kicker," he said.

SUCCESS HAS BEEN the rule rather than the exception for Ferguson over the last two years. He qualified for last year's regional despite competing in just three of the six qualifiers. He placed second in a qualifier on Western Lake near Midland and third in one on Lake St. Clair. He had a "fair finish" in a qualifier on Grand River then finished "in the middle of the pack" at the regional.

The highlight of last year's success, however, was qualifying for the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society's BASS Master's Classic. The tournament was held in August on the James River in Richmond, Virginia.

"Actually, I did terrible in the tournament, but just to make it there was fantastic. I was only the fifth Michigan resident to qualify for the BASS Master's Classic in the 20 years its been held. All the top guys are there. It's the best tournament in the world."

FERGUSON CREDITS his neighbor George Hoffman with getting him started in professional bass fish-

ing. "I had been fishing for fun, but when I saw George's bass boat I fell in love with it," Ferguson said. "He had been fishing the circuits since the early '70s and he got me headed in the right direction."

Ferguson and Hoffman have teamed up to fish the American Scholarship Team Circuit for the last three years. In 1988 they won the circuit and were the national leaders. In 1989 they placed second while last year they jumped back on top again. They are currently in fourth place after the first two tournaments of the summer.

Ferguson said he averages four of five fishing trips per week.

"You have to put in a lot of practice and put your time in on the water," he said. "Just like in any other sport, you have to practice to be good. Practice with fishing is a little different than other sports. You have to practice keeping a positive attitude and practice keeping your body and mind in tune with what the fish are doing. Fish do different things at different times of the year. You have to be aware of this and be in tune with what's going on in the water."

(Anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: O&E, 405 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or call Bill Parker at 644-1101, ext. 241.)



exercising options

Myrna Partrich

Exercise may build more than muscles

Dear Myrna: Have there been any studies made recently on exercise and how it affects our intelligence? It seems to me that I have read something on the subject.

If you have recently read any such study on exercise, or any interesting subject on exercise, please contact me. I am always interested in new information.

This last year the University of Illinois conducted a study of rats and exercise. Now here we are with another "old rat theory."

Well, you may have already suspected it. Scientists are finding that exercise not only builds muscles, but may make the brain grow stronger as well. In the University of Illinois study, it was found that after four weeks of aerobic exercise, rats averaged a 20 percent increase in the number of blood vessels nourishing the cerebellum.

The study notes that improving the brain's ability to respond more efficiently to one form of exercise also prepares it to better handle other types of physical activity. A change within a four-week period is amazing when you think about it.

(Myrna Partrich, co-owner of The Workout Company, Inc. of Bloomfield Township and a member of the President's Council of Physical Fitness, is happy to answer any questions readers may have regarding exercise. Please send those questions to: Sports department, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.)

outdoors calendar

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- July 18-21 - Mariner Festival will be held in Tawas City. Call 1-800-55-TAWAS for more information.
- July 20-21 - Arrow Fest will take place at the Western Wayne County Conservation Association. Call 453-9843 for more information.
- July 20-21 - Masters Walleye Circuit Tournament will be held in Saginaw. Call (517) 686-7787 for more information.
- July 20-28 - A walleye tournament will be held in Cassville. Call (517) 269-6431 for more information.
- July 21 - Operation Bass will have a Michigan Division qualifier at Harley Ensign PAS, in St. Clair. Entry deadline is July 10. Call (309) 563-9114 or (502) 362-8110 for more information.
- July 21 - A 3D shoot begins at 8 a.m. at the Royal Oak Archers' walk through range in Lake Orion. Call 693-1369 or 693-9799 for more information.
- July 26-28 - 1991 Budweiser AuSable River Canoe Marathon begins at dusk in Grayling. Call 1-800-235-GOAL for more information.
- July 27 - AuSable River Festival Kids Fishing Derby will be held in Grayling. Call (517) 348-3784 for more information.
- July 27 - Kalamazoo River Steelheaders' Fishing Contest will be held in Saugatuck. Call (616) 857-4762 for more information.
- July 27-28 - A walleye tournament will be held in AuGres. Call (517) 876-6688 for more information.

- July 31 - Entry deadline for the Aug. 11 Operation Bass Michigan Division qualifier in Muskegon. Call (309) 633-0114 for more information.
- Aug 1-3 - Cabella's/In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Championship will be held at Veteran's Memorial Park in Bay City. Call 1-800-424-5114 for more information.
- Aug 3 - Backlashers Bass Club of Livonia will hold a kids fishing derby beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Gallop Park in Ann Arbor. Call Scott Soucy at 525-1387 for more information.
- Aug 4 - Royal Oak Archers will hold a 3D shoot on its walk through range in Lake Orion. Call 693-1369 or 693-9799 for more information.
- Aug 11 - Operation Bass will hold a Michigan Division qualifier at Fisherman's Landing in Muskegon. Call (309) 633-0114 or (502) 362-8110 for more information.
- Aug 18 - Western Wayne County Conservation Association will have a 3D archery shoot at 10 a.m. on its walk-through range in Plymouth Township. Call 453-9843, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. daily or 425-0887 evenings for more information.
- Aug 22-25 - Grand Traverse Salmon Classic will be held on west Grand Traverse Bay. Call (616) 941-7044 for more information.
- Through August - Jack Levensen Sailing School will have classes on Lake St. Clair. Call 886-7887 for more information.
- Through Sept. 2 - Crooked Lake Fishing Contest will take place at Independence Oaks County Park in Clarkston. Call 625-0877 for more information.

- Through Sept. 2 - Buhl Lake Fishing Contest will take place at Addison Oaks County Park. Call 625-0877 for more information.

METROPARKS

- Rosco and Redhats, a hotdog cookout for children featuring tricks, jokes and balloon animals by Rosco the Clown, begins at 7 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.
- Junior Naturalists, a program for children ages 10-12 featuring a study of birds, insects, mammals and wildflowers, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Indian Springs. Participants should bring a sack lunch and should dress for the weather.
- Worlds in Water, a program in which participants will explore life in a pond, begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.
- Birchbark and Brunch, an opportunity to help paddle the 35-foot Voyager canoe, begins at 10 a.m. Sunday at Stony Creek. There is a \$2.50 fee per person.
- Go with the Flow Stream Walk, a nature program in which participants will explore the shallow waters of Stony Creek Lake, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Stony Creek. Participants should bring old shoes so they can wade in the water.
- Snakes Alive, a nature program about snakes, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.
- Summer in a Pond, a nature program in which participants will use dip nets and sorting trays to explore life in a pond, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.
- Family Evening Nature Cruise,

a family-oriented cruise aboard the Island Queen Excursion boat begins at 8 p.m. Thursday at Kensington. There is a \$2 charge per person.

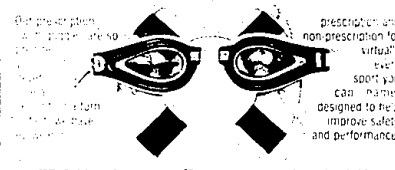
Nature at the Beach: Tracks in the Sand, a program to help children identify animal tracks, begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Stony Creek.

Most Metropark programs are free, but some have a nominal charge. Advance registration and a vehicle entry permit are required. For more information, call 1-800-234-6534.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

- Snakes, Oh No! a nature program about the world of snakes, begins at 7 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks.
- Michigan Wetlands, a program in which Tim Trudewy of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs will talk about the values of wetlands, begins at 3 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks.
- Perish for the Plate, a nature program in which participants will learn to make edible flowers in daily meals, begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at Independence Oaks.

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Description	Price
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Championship Rounds: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (4 days)	\$25
10 GROUNDS ONLY - EXCHANGEABLE COUPONS (valid any day, includes 10 parking coupons, 10 Championship magazines)	\$2.75
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