

# Hills resident heads conservation group



BILL PARKER

resting on his laurels and enjoying a nice quiet retirement the 59-year old Farmington Hills resident is busier now than he's ever been.

On June 26th, Dittmar was elected president of the nation's largest statewide conservation organization, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs. He was elected to serve a one-year term as head of the 130,000 member organization and can be reelected to serve one more term.

"It's a tremendous challenge and there's a lot of work to do, but it's something I've been looking forward to," said Dittmar. "They put me to work right away. Four days after I was elected I found myself testifying at a senate hearing on public access sites."

I found Dittmar at his cabin in Manistee last week. I assumed he was taking a brief reprieve before plunging head first into his duties as MUCC president.

Not a chance.

"Art, did I catch you at a bad time," I asked.

"No, not really. I was just typing some things up," he said.

"Well, how's the fishing," I quizzed.

"To tell you the truth Bill, I haven't been out yet. I've been kind of busy, but I've got the boat in," he said.

Such is life as president of MUCC. It's mid-July and he hasn't had a chance to go fishing yet.

An educated educator

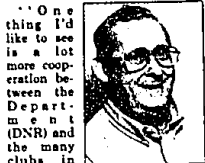
Hard work is nothing new to Dittmar. He has been active in Michigan conservation and outdoor education for decades. He has taught classes on hunting, boating and snowmobiling safety.

Great Lakes sport fishing, and is a certified National Rifle Association instructor in rifle, pistol, shotgun and home firearms safety.

In addition, Dittmar has also been a director of Michigan Steelheaders; charter president and board member of the Metro-West Chapter of the Michigan Steelheaders; and charter president and board member of the Livonia-based Four Seasons Fishing Club.

"I think MUCC is in for a couple pretty good years," said Andy Hallman of Livonia, one of the founders of the Four Seasons Fishing Club. "Art is a good man and is very knowledgeable on anything outdoors. I know one thing, there's no way any human can follow him unless they have a calendar. He's always on the go."

Dittmar has already established some goals for his upcoming year as president.



Art Dittmar

One thing I'd like to see is a lot more cooperation between the Department (DNR) and the many clubs in Michigan," Dittmar explained. "The DNR is generally strapped for funds and many of the hunting and fishing clubs have funds but not enough manpower. I'd like to get these clubs working together with the DNR and get some of these projects completed."

He'd also like to see Michigan receive more state and federal funding for environmental and resource education and he'd like to see Michigan's youth become more involved with MUCC.

"With his teaching background, Art knows how to be heard," added Hallman. "I think Tom Washington (MUCC's past president and current president of the National Rifle Association) will work closely with him. I think the legislature will work closely with him and I think the DNR will work closely with him. I don't think they have any choice. They will have to listen to him whether they want to or not."

## Anglers place in Red Man

Art Ferguson II of Rochester, and Kyle Green of Bloomfield Hills, both placed in the top 10 in the second of six Red Man Michigan Division qualifiers, recently on Saginaw Lake.

Ferguson placed second with a five-bass limit that weighed 13 pounds, 8 ounces. He fished weed beds at the west end of the lake using Berkley Power Worms.

Green placed ninth with four bass that tipped the scale at 10 pounds, 8 ounces.

The next stop on the Red Man Tournament Trail for Michigan Division anglers will be Sunday, July 31, on the Detroit River.

At the conclusion of six qualifying events, the top 30 anglers in the division will move on to the Regional Championship.

While not competing in tournaments, Ferguson has been busy taping fishing shows for the tube.

He is currently featured on the Master Angler Show, along with producer Mark Gomez.

The show airs on TCI Cable, Channel 63, on Monday's and Thursday's at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

He will also be televised on cable station TNN on Fishing with Roland Martin. That show will air Saturday, July 30 at 12:30 p.m. and Sunday, July 31, at 9:30 p.m.

Anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to 644-1314 or call Bill Parker, 6-10 p.m. Monday evenings, at 901-2573.

## CLASSES/CAMPS

**MUSKIELOADER CLASS**  
The Western Wayne County Conservation Association will offer a basic muskie-loader class beginning Wednesday, Aug. 3, on the club grounds in Plymouth Twp., 555-0436.

**YOUTH CHALLENGE**  
The third annual Michigan Youth Hunter Education Challenge will be July 30-31 at the Saginaw Field and Stream Club. The event is sponsored by the National Rifle Association and features activities aimed at stimulating hunting situations, and testing hunter knowledge and skills of youngsters, (517) 371-1041.

## FISHING CLUBS

**FOUR SEASONS**  
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Maplewood Center in Garden City, 477-3816.

**MICHIGAN FLY FISHING**  
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarendonville Junior High School, 420-2233.

**METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**  
Metro-West Steelheaders, a non-profit club dedicated to educating the public on improving, preserving and promoting anadromous sport fishing, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School, 420-2265.

## FISHING TOURNAMENTS

**SALMON TOURNAMENT**  
The Rogers City Salmon Tournament, which attracts upwards of 1,000 anglers annually, is scheduled for Aug 12-13 in Rogers City, 1-800-622-4148.

## DEADLINES/SEASONS

**ELK**  
August 1 is the application deadline for Michigan's September elk hunt. The application deadline for the December elk hunt is Sept. 15.

## METROPARKS

**FULL MOON WALK**  
A naturalist-led hike under the

light of July's "Heat Moon" begins at 8 p.m. at Kensington. A similar program begins at 8:30 p.m. at Stony Creek.

**FOSSIL FINDING**  
A two hour program that includes slides and a discussion about fossils begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kensington.

**NATURE, BIKES AND ICE CREAM**  
Learn about wildlife on this six-mile naturalist-led bike hike, which includes a stop for ice cream. The program begins at 7 p.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

**TOT LOT**  
Tot Lot visitors can enjoy nature stories, activities and an occasional critter visitor in this program which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs. Registration is not required.

**DINOSAURS AT THE DOOR**  
Journey back to when dinosaurs walked the earth in this program which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday at Stony Creek. Participants will explore how dinosaurs lived and learn new theories about dinosaurs.

**FLOWER WALK**  
Locate and learn about some of the mid-summer wildflowers in

this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

**BEES AND WASPS**  
Learn the importance of bees and wasps and learn about the unique adaptations that contribute to their survival in this program which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

**NATURE STORYTIME**  
Children ages 3-5 will learn stories and songs about nature in this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Kensington.

**NATURE DISCOVERY**  
A program for kids ages 6-7 in which participants will explore life in a pond begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Kensington.

**MUNCH, NIBBLE AND CHEW**  
Elementary age youngsters can learn about plant parts and their jobs as they munch, nibble and chew their way through this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Stony Creek.

**METROPARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Most Metropark programs are free, while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs, 1-800-47-PARKS.

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