

Top pros enter Bassmaster



BILL PARKER

The wait is over. The time has come. The Bassmasters have arrived. One hundred of the top-ranked professional bass anglers from across the country and 100 amateurs including eight from the O&E area will battle it out on Lake St. Clair next week in the four-day, pro-am Bassmaster Top 100.

"They're bringing in the top 100 pros from all over the country," said Livonia's Duane Ray, a two-time pro-am competitor. "This is like a pro-am (golf tournament) at the TPC and being able to golf with (Lee) Trevino or (Jack) Nicklaus. This is as big as it gets for bass anglers."

Such notable pros as Roland Martin (17-time Bassmaster tournament winner), Rick Clunn (four-time world champion), Jim

my Houston (two-time B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year), Larry Nixon (leading money winner and four-time MegaBucks champion) and David Fitts (1993 Masters Classic winner) and reigning B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year will all be competing in the tournament, which runs Wednesday, Aug. 24, through Saturday, Aug. 27.

Joining the pros will be local amateurs Reg Babiars of Farmington Hills, Livonia's Duane Ray, John "Randy" Sparkman and Rick Swain, Darrin Beattie of Auburn Hills, Kyle Greene of Bloomfield Hills, Rick Van Tien of West Bloomfield and Art Wargo of Rochester.

The 100 amateurs were selected through a random draw from national and international entries. Amateurs will compete only against other amateurs and will fish with a different pro each day. "This is the thrill of a lifetime," said Babiars, a two-time qualifier for the Michigan Bass Federation state fish-off. "They're coming to fish my lake, and I'm looking forward to learning something. They'll learn in two days what it took me two years to learn. I'm stoked."

Swain had similar feelings. "This is the biggest thing that has happened to me in a long, long time," he said. "I've never had much luck gambling or with the lottery so when I got picked for this I just couldn't believe it. What I learn from these guys will be invaluable to me."

Monday and Tuesday will be practice days. The tournament runs Wednesday through Saturday. Daily 3 p.m. weigh-ins are open to the public and will take place at the picnic site at the North Marina at Metro Beach Metropark in Mount Clemens.

Sparkman, winner of the TNT Top Dog Tournament on Belleville Lake earlier this year, said he "welcomes the challenge of being paired with someone of that caliber" and feels the pros will like what they find on Lake St. Clair.

"I think they'll be back," Sparkman said. "The small-

mouth quality on St. Clair is phenomenal. Even a novice can go out there and catch smallmouth. I'm really excited."

The pros will be available for autographs and a short picture-taking session after they weigh in their fish each day.

"If people want to see some big bass they'll see some real nice ones at the weigh-ins," added Babiars. "Those southern boys just love to come up here and fish for smallmouths and Lake St. Clair is probably the third best body of water for smallmouth bass fishing in the world. Lake Erie is probably number one and Lake Ontario is number two. The Great Lakes are totally unfished for bass, and I think the pros are going to like it."

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 Monday evenings at (810) 901-2575.

A friend and mentor

Ferguson became friends with Martin while guiding out of Martin's Marina on Florida's Lake Okechobee over the last few winters.

"I consider Roland a great friend and a mentor," Ferguson said. "Roland hasn't fished tournaments for two years, so I was kind of helping him get caught up on what's happening, especially with smallmouth. I showed him around for a week during pre-practice and we did a show on Lake St. Clair, which will air after the first of the year."

"When you get to meet a celebrity like Roland Martin, at first you're kind of in awe," Ferguson said. "Now I look at him as a friend, but sometimes I look at him and think 'Wow! That's my childhood idol sitting there.'"

Although Ferguson won't be fishing when the tournament begins next Wednesday, he'll hardly be sitting still.

"I'll be pretty busy, (Livonia resident) Ed Dietrich and I will be running the camera boat for the Bassmaster TV crew," he said. "Jan's Sport Shop in Goodrich, my local sponsor, will have the exclusive boat display at the weigh-in site and I'll be helping out there, too."

Tourney puts state waters on display

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Art Ferguson is excited about the Michigan Bassmaster Top 100 coming to Lake St. Clair next week.

Even though he won't be competing in the four-day pro-am event, the Rochester Hills native and Livonia resident is excited about the prospect of 100 of the top professionals from across the nation coming to fish his home lake.

The tournament runs Wednesday through Saturday with daily weigh-ins at 3 p.m. Spectators can catch the weigh-ins at the picnic area of the North Marina at Metro Beach Metropark in Mount Clemens.

There will be 100 boats in the tournament with a pro and an amateur in each boat. Eight of those amateurs hail from the Observer & Eccentric coverage area.

"This is a huge tournament, and I think it's going to open a lot of eyes as to what Michigan has to offer," Ferguson said. "The largemouth fishing is good out there, but the smallmouth fishing is just phenomenal. I think everyone will have an opportunity to do very well."

Ferguson should know. The local pro always does well when he hits the waters of Lake St. Clair. In the last three years, Ferguson has won four tournaments on Lake St. Clair, placed second three times and placed third twice. On top of that, he runs a

'This is a huge tournament, and I think it's going to open a lot of eyes as to what Michigan has to offer. The largemouth fishing is good out there, but the smallmouth fishing is just phenomenal. I think everyone will have an opportunity to do very well.'

Art Ferguson
fishing professional

able fishing conditions, we managed to catch 10 bass (as well as two pike and one shad) in a half day of fishing. The biggest was a 5-pound, 6-ounce smallmouth, and our biggest five weighed better than 16 pounds.

We concentrated our efforts on "secondary spots" (he wouldn't show me his favorite holes) and fished mostly over weedlines in five to eight feet of water. We caught most of the bass on pearl Gitzits and chartreuse Rattle-Traps.

The Michigan Bassmaster Top 100 is the first of 15 qualifying events on the \$4 million professional Bassmaster Tournament Trail that leads to the prestigious world championship B.A.S.S. Masters Classic.

More than \$270,000 will be up for grabs next week, including \$24,000 cash and a \$21,000 fully rigged Ranger Bass Boat for the top professional and a \$19,000 fully rigged Ranger Bass Boat for the amateur champion.

The 100 amateurs were selected through a random draw from national and international entries.

Ferguson decided not to enter the amateur draw and instead worked to help Roland Martin — one of the nation's most popular bass anglers and a 17-time Bassmaster Tournament winner — prepare for the Michigan tournament. Martin is also the host of The Roland Martin Fishing Show, which airs locally on the TNN cable station.

guide service on the 490-square-mile lake during the summer.

"There are a lot of shallow, weedy, sandy areas with plenty of forage. I'd have to say Lake St. Clair probably has the second or third best smallmouth fishery in the nation. About 60 percent of the lake is currently influenced, which is what smallmouth like."

The bass are there

Ferguson took me out on Lake St. Clair recently to give me a glimpse of what the pros will be up against.

We didn't expect to do real well since we went out the day after a cold front moved through and the morning began without a cloud in the sky. Despite these unfavor-

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

CLEANUPS

HURON RIVER CLEANUP
Friends of the Huron will sponsor the eighth annual Huron River Cleanup in Oakland County beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. (Rain date is Aug. 27). Volunteers are needed and should meet at the Kensington Group Campsite on Martindale Road in Milford Twp. Call Phyllis at 685-7129 for more information.

FISHING TOURNAMENTS

BASSMASTER TOP 100
The top 100 professional bass anglers from across the nation and 100 randomly selected amateurs including eight from the O&E area will compete Aug. 24-27 on Lake St. Clair in the BASSMASTER Top 100 Tournament. Weigh-ins, which are open to the public, will take place at 3 p.m. each day Metro Beach Metropark in Mt. Clemens.

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's Clarenceville 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, 420-2965.

WATERFOWL SPORTSMAN SHOW

Area waterfowl hunters and decoy collectors will find exhibitors, decoy contests, calling contests, speakers, seminars demonstrations and more at the 17th annual Saginaw Valley Waterfowls Sportsman Show and Clinic. The show will be held 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday at the Potters Lake Complex near Davison, 694-2781 or 667-9769.

DEADLINES/SEASONS

ELK
Sept. 15 is the application deadline for Michigan's December elk hunt.

SMALLGAME
Smallgame season opens statewide on Sept. 15.

METROPARKS

BASIC BIRDING
A two-hour program including an introduction to bird identification and behavior followed by a leisurely walk to locate some resident birds begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Kensington. Participants should bring binoculars.

SHAKES FOR KIDS
Children ages 8-12 will discover the fascinating world of snakes in this program which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

NATURE, BIKES AND ICE CREAM
Participants will learn about wildlife during a 6-mile bike ride which includes a stop for ice cream in this program, which 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.

BETTER LOOK AT BUTTERFLIES
Discover the meaning behind some butterfly patterns and colors in this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

FULL MOON WALK
A naturalist-led hike under the light of the full moon begins at 8 p.m. Sunday at Kensington. A similar program including a snack of corn-on-the-cob begins at 8 p.m. 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.

SUPER SUMMER SAVINGS

7 Locations to Serve You

ALUMINUM COIL STOCK

\$37.95

Wolverine Vinyl Soffit

\$46.95

SHUTTERS

Aluminum or Vinyl

17 Colors Available

ANY SIZE YOU NEED

MANY STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM

ALUMINUM SIDING

50 Year Warranty

\$59.95

VINYL SIDING

Wolverine

50 Year Warranty

\$39.95

SIDING WORLD

STORM DOORS

STORM WINDOWS

CUSTOM MADE BY TRAPP AND FOX

\$52.95

Aluminum Soffit

For Overhang

\$52.95

SEAMLESS GUTTERS

69¢

SOLID VINYL WINDOWS

50 Year Warranty

\$39.95

CUSTOM TRIM AVAILABLE

\$39.95

GOLF LAND'S HUGE ANNUAL Summer Clearance

MEN'S CLUBS

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
SPALDING EXECUTIVES 13.5-3-PK. Steel Shaft, 100% & MCL	\$279.99	\$199.99	\$80.00
TPE ADVANCED GRAPHITE 13.5-3-PK. 1993 Cleveland, 100% only	\$699.99	\$399.99	\$300.00
COUGAR EXPRESS Metal Woods, 13.5-3, 7-Set Only	\$199.99	\$149.99	\$50.00
LYNX PHALAXX IRONS 3-PK. Just like Fred's	\$449.99	\$399.99	\$50.00
BEA HOGAN H-40 IRONS 3-PK. Set 3 Wedges Free Iron Ropes	\$449.99	\$399.99	\$50.00

LADIES' CLUBS

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
TOMMY AARON JUMBO WOODS 10 pieces, With Graphite Shafts	\$799.99	\$499.99	\$300.00
ASSORTED TAYLORMADE WOODS 12 pieces, 1993 Cleveland, Steel	\$749.99	\$299.99	\$450.00
ASSORTED TAYLORMADE WOODS 10 pieces, 1993 Cleveland, Graphite	\$1299.99	\$499.99	\$800.00
PRO SELECT GRAPHITE SHAFTS 13.5-6, 4-5W	\$329.99	\$249.99	\$80.00
LADY HOGAN METALWOODS 10 pieces, 13.5-6, Graphite, 4 sets	\$349.99	\$199.99	\$150.00

GOLF SHOES

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
LADIES' FOOT-JOY Softsoles, Special Purchase	\$49.99	\$29.99	\$20.00
LADIES' FOOT-JOY Softsoles, Special Purchase	\$69.99	\$39.99	\$30.00
MEN'S FOOT-JOY Softsoles, Special Purchase	\$69.99	\$39.99	\$30.00
MEN'S FOOT-JOY Softsoles, Special Purchase	\$69.99	\$39.99	\$30.00

LEFT HAND CLUBS

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
MEN'S BRIGHT LANCER 8 Set Only, 13.5-6, 3-PK	\$149.99	\$99.99	\$50.00
MEN'S POWERBILT GRAND SLAM 4 Sets, 13.5-6 Graphite, 1993 Cleveland	\$199.99	\$99.99	\$100.00
LADIES' COUGAR RHYTHM 13.5-6, 3-PK. Cleveland Woods	\$349.99	\$299.99	\$50.00

BAGS AND CARTS

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
LADIES' BLOU LINE BAGS With 1993, 8 bags in stock	\$149.99	\$99.99	\$50.00
LADIES' BULLETT 1993 model, 4 colors, 20 bags	\$299.99	\$199.99	\$100.00
L.P. LAURE CART Automatic Folding Cart	\$499.99	\$399.99	\$100.00

APPAREL

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
MEN'S FOOT-JOY SOCKS 3 Pack assortment, 14 only	\$99.99	\$69.99	\$30.00
MEN'S STORM HATS Softshell and/or only	\$299.99	\$199.99	\$100.00
MEN'S AND LADIES' SHORTS Limited colors and sizes	\$399.99	\$199.99	\$200.00
MEN'S SWEATERS Special prices on big savings	\$499.99	\$299.99	\$200.00

ACCESSORIES

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
BALL RETRIEVER 6 foot long	\$99.99	\$69.99	\$30.00
KIRT HEAD COVERS Small selection	\$99.99	\$69.99	\$30.00
BULLET HORN ROLLER COVERS Padded with urethane for travel	\$899.99	\$699.99	\$200.00
62" UMBRELLA Unbreakable	\$159.99	\$99.99	\$60.00

GOLF BALLS

Reg. Price	SALE	SAVE	
RAM IDC 2 PC. CUT PROOF 98 piece, 12 colors	\$199.99	\$99.99	\$100.00
SPALDING FLYING LADY 98 ball pack	\$149.99	\$129.99	\$20.00

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

For 3 Convenient Years CARL'S GOLF LAND

MAKING ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP 100 GOLF SHOPS

GOLF LAND

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK