

Hooked on fishing: Chris Landrum of Farmington Hills shows off the rainbow trout he caught Saturday on the Rouge River in Southfield's 11th Annual Fishing Derby.

Fishing returns to Rouge River



Bill Zikewich tip-toed out onto plece of broken concrete on the edge of the Rouge River, cast a worm into the flowing water, then waited patiently for a bite.

Zike wich wan't as inter-

wasn't as inter-ested in catching PARMER ested in catching a rainbow trout as most of the anglers lining the bank of the river Saturday in Southfield. He was happy just to have the opportunity to wet a line and watch the kids enjoy themselves. It wan't long ago that this stretch of the river, just below Civic Center bridge in Southfield, was unfishable. Silt and debris had filled in the river bed and

was unfishable. Silt and debris had filled in the river bed and slowed the flow of water to a near

slowed the flow of water to a near trickle.

"It was about ankle deep and the water was barely flowing through here," remarked Zikewich, Superintendent of Foerstry and Environmental Programs for Southfield Parks and Recreation. "We started a program down here 10 years ago with a \$3,000 grant from the Michigan Wildlife Habitat Foundation and have been building on that."

The grow th has been phenomenal.

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Building a fishery

With additional help — both physical and financial — from the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited and college students from Lawrence institute of Technology and Michigan State University the City of Southfield has developed a fine recreational fishery right in the heart of the city.

Debris was removed from the river and wing wall shave been installed, increasing and directing the flow of water. With the increased flow, the river cleansed itself and created natural holes for fish to live in.

"There is a gravel bottom all through here now. It used to be all sillt," boasted Zikewich.

Upwards of 600 people gathered at the river Saturday to participate in the 11th annual Southfield Flishing Derby. A half-mile acction of the river, running upstream from the Telegraph Road bridge, is fenced off for a day each apring and 400 farm-raised railed bridge, is fenced off for a day each apring and 400 farm-raised railed bridge, is fenced off for a day each apring and 400 farm-raised railed to the river. Anglers were allowed to flash our road and the regulation of the second and the regulation of the second results of the regulation of the second results of the second regulation went into effect.

Something for the kids

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Of the estimated 400 anglers
participating in the derby over the
course of the day, a large majority

participating in the derby over the course of the day, a large majority were children.

Ed and Jill Landrum, of Farmington Hills, brought their 10-year old son Chris down to the derby.

"This is our sixth year to come down here," explained Ed. "The fish are right here and it gives the kids a good opportunity to catch something."

Ten-year-old Chris took advantage of that opportunity and caught a nice, plump rainbow early in the morning.

"We've caught something every year," added Ed. "We look forward to it. The whole family comes down here each year."

Geri Veldman brought her Cub Scout Den I from Ferndale's Pack 1221 out to the derby.

"They've working on the fishing requirement for the Conservation badge," explained Veldman. This is really next and it's close to home. It's great for the kids."

Anglers and turkey hunters ore

Anglers and turkey hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors. 805 E. Mople, Birming-ham, MI. 48009. Fax information to (810) 64-1314 or call Bill Par-ker evenings at (810) 901-2573.)

RANKINGS

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- and John Glenn. with Salem. Ind Catholic Central. Ington Hitle Harrison. In Mamorial.

- ORLS TRACK
- , Plymouth Canton. , Farmington Hills H. Plymouth Salem.

GIRLS BOCCER

BOYS TENNES stord Catholic Centra rth Farmington, mouth Selem.

a Ladywood. Igton Hills Me uth Salem. a Stevenson.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

ARCHERY

E HOLIDAY SHOOT
Detroit Archers will hold a "Holiday 3D Shoot" beginning at 9
a.m. Monday, May 29, on its
walk-through range in West
Bloomfield, (810) 661-9610.

M IBO QUALIFIER

The Washtenaw Sportsmen's Club will hold an IBO world qual-ifier 3D shoot on Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, on its walk-through range in Ypsilanti, (313) 481-1038 or (313) 672-7772.

FISHING CLUBS

E BICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club
meeta at 7 p.m. the first and third
Wednesdays of each month at
Livonia Clarencoville Junior High
Fachal (2014) 473 1404 School, (810) 478-1494.

M FOUR SPASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednes-day of each month at the Maple-wood Center in Garden City, 477-

Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School, 420-2965.

SEASONS/DATES

IN TURKEY

Spring turkey season runs through May 28 in designated management areas across the state.

E BASS

Catch-and-release bass fishing is permitted on Cass, Kent and

Pontiac lakes through May 27. The regular bass season opens May 28.

It is legal to use hand nets for catching smelt statewide through May 31.

M CAMPING

Addison Oaks County Park near Rochester (810 693-2432) and Groveland Oake County Park near Holly (810 634-9811) are open for summer camping.

Michigan's 10th annual Free Fishing Weekend, in which no fishing license or trout/salmon stamp is required to fish in Mich-igan, will be Saturday and Sun-day, June 10-11.

CLASSES/ SHOOTS

B HUNTER EDUCATION
The Wayne County Sportsmans'
Club will hold a hunter education
class on Saturday and Sunday,
May 20-21, at its clubhouse in
Romulus, (313) 532-0285.

TURKEY SHOOT

The Western Washtenaw Chapter of Whitetails Umlimited is sponsoring a turkey shoot beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 20, (313)

FUNDRAISERS

E PEREGRINE RETURN
"An Urban Celebration," will be held 5-8 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at the Book Building in Detroit. Proceeds from the event, which includes music, refreshments, a

allent auction and a live peregrine display, will benefit the Peregrine Restoration Project through the Natural Heritage Program of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Fund. Tickets are \$20, (313) 953-1528.

METROPARKS

II METROPARK REQUIREMENTS

EMETROPAKK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are
free, while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and
a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the
respective parks, toll free! Stony
Creek, 1-800-477-1756; Indian
Springs, 1-800-477-3178.

MAY BIRD COUNT

The 19th annual census of the park's bird population will begin at 7 a.m. Saturday at Kensington Participants should bring bluoculars and a sack lunch. Beginners are welcome.

III NATURE FOR KIDS

E HATURE FOR KIDS

A monthly nature program for youths age 7-10 accompanied by their parents, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kensington. This month's program is about pond critters.

TOTS AND SPRING
A chance for children ages 3-5 to discover the spring season through puppets, songs and a short walk begins at 11 a.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

PLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS

E PLOWING DEMONSTRATIONS
Watch work horses pull walking
plows and riding plows in this
program, which begins at 1 p.m.
Saturday at the Kensington Farm
Center.

■ WINGING IT A program designed to teach beginning birders how to identify birds by their songs, behavior a habitats as well as the birds themselves, begins at 7:30 a.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

M WALK-A-STOM

Kids of all ages can take a nature walk with their mother in this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Sunday at Stony Creek.

Discover some vital but often overlooked features of the forest community during this sensory exploration of nature, which being sine at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian.

M MOTHER HATURE'S MOTHERS

Learn about some of the different ways of mothering in nature dur-ing this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

M FULL MOON WALK

Take a relaxing stroll in the moonlight during this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Sunday to Manipoten A similar program. at Kensington. A similar program begins at 8 p.m. at Stony Creek.

OAKLAND **COUNTY PARKS**

M COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

WILDLIFF MOMS

Eco-explorers ages 6-8 will dis-cover the story behind mother-hood in the natural world during this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Independence



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