

## OUTDOORS CALENDAR

## ARCHERY

**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) 601-9610.

## IBO QUALIFIER

The Washtenaw Sportsman's Club will hold an IBO world qual (for 3D) shoot Saturday and Sunday on its walk-through range in Ypsilanti, (313) 481-1038 or (313) 572-7772.

## FISHING CLUBS

**MICHIGAN FLY FISHING**  
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School, (810) 478-1494.

## 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.

**METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS**  
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

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

**BASS**  
Catch-and-release bass fishing is permitted on Cass, Kent and Pontiac lakes through May 27. The regular bass season opens May 28.

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

**CAMPING**  
Addison Oaks County Park near Rochester (810) 633-2432 and Groveland Oaks County Park near Holly (810) 634-9811 are open for summer camping.

**FISHING**  
Michigan's 10th annual Free Fishing Weekend, in which no fishing license or trout/salmon stamp is required to fish in Michigan, will be Saturday and Sunday, June 10-11. This date coincides with National Fishing Week, which will be celebrated June 5-11.

## CLASSES/SHOOTS

**DEER HUNTING SEMINAR**  
The Michigan Big Game Hunters Association will hold a free deer hunting seminar beginning at 7 p.m. tonight at Arrowhead Archery in Taylor, (313) 295-3474.

**HUNTER EDUCATION**  
The Wayne County Sportsman's Club will hold a hunter education class Saturday and Sunday at its clubhouse in Romulus, (313) 632-0285.

## TURKEY SHOOT

The Western Washtenaw Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited is sponsoring a turkey shoot beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, (313) 487-5801.

## FLY FISHING CONCLAVE

The public is invited to join the Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers in their 17th annual Fly Fishing Conclave, June 16-18, at the McMillen Conference Center on Higgins Lake. The conclave will include speakers, demonstrations and workshops for beginner through advanced fly fishers, as well as a youth program, an auction and raffles, lodging and meals are available at the center and there are camping facilities at Higgins Lake State Park. For more information call Jack Schramm at (616) 869-6487.

## FUNDRAISERS

**PEREGRINE RETURN**  
"An Urban Celebration," will be held 5-8 p.m. today at the Book Building in Detroit. Proceeds from the event, which includes music, refreshments, a silent auction and a live peregrine display, will benefit the Peregrine Restoration Project through the National Wildlife Federation of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Fund. Tickets are \$20, (313) 953-1528.

## METROPARKS

**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. Call the respective parks, toll free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

**ADULT NIGHT WALK**  
A naturalist-led, two-mile walk in search of wildlife begins at 8 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

**SWAMP SERenade**  
Thrill to the trills and croaks of frogs and toads calling for mates and learn to identify local species by sound and sight during this evening swamp walk, which begins at 8:30 p.m. Friday at Indian Springs.

**HORSEING AROUND**  
A demonstration of the techniques used to train draft horses begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Farm Center.

**NATURE'S HERBS**  
Learn about natural herbs through a slide presentation followed by an outdoor walk in this program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Kensington.

**WINGED JEWELS**  
A naturalist-led, two-hour walk in search of spring warblers begins at 8 a.m. Sunday at Stony Creek.

**SPRING FLOWERS**  
A slide program followed by a walk to explore the world of woodland wildflowers begins at 1 p.m. Sunday at Stony Creek.

**WILDFLOWER FOLKLORE**  
Participants will learn some fascinating stories behind wildflowers during this nature hike, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

## Bear hunters challenge anti-hunting legislation



BILL PARKER

**OUTDOOR INSIGHTS**

Michigan Bear hunters have been concerned in recent months about a proposed anti-hunting ballot initiative that would all but end their ability to hunt black bear in Michigan. Those concerns intensified last week as several prominent state and national anti-hunting proponents gathered in Troy Saturday to participate in a black bear symposium.

The topic of the symposium was baiting and hound hunting for Michigan black bear, the same hunting techniques which the ballot initiative would ban.

The symposium was sponsored by the Michigan Humane Society and the Great Bear Foundation.

Anti-hunters were well represented by members of CUB (Citizens United for Bear) which is a conglomeration of several anti-hunting groups including The Fund for Animals, the Michigan Humane Society and Sportsman and Property Owners Rights and Tactics. CUB is spearheading the ballot initiative.

Fortunately, dozens of concerned hunters also attended the symposium — a show of hands midway through the day-long program indicated there were more hunters present than anti-hunters. At the last minute, two hunter representatives were allowed to join panel discussions to express

our views on the techniques in question. Rest assured, we were very well represented.

Steve Helsen, past president of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, spoke in defense of hound hunting and Richard P. Smith, a renowned outdoor writer and author from Marquette, spoke in defense of baiting. Both men spoke with confidence and poise and backed up their claims with biological and scientific facts, something the anti's couldn't do. Each also took his turn exposing some of the half-truths put forth by the anti's. When questioned, the inaccuracies were not disputed. Unchecked, they would have been perceived as fact.

An anti-hunting proposal to ban baiting and hound hunting of Michigan black bear will most likely end up on the ballot in 1996. The anti's have the money to solicit the signatures needed to force a ballot initiative.

The anti's will tell you the ban is in the best interest of the black bear because Michigan's black bear need to be protected. They won't tell you that because of sound game management practices, which includes regulated hunting, the black bear is thriving in Michigan with a growing population of between 8,000 and 10,000 animals.

They'll say we should leave the animals alone, but they fail to realize we have already interfered. Development annually destroys thousands of acres of critical habitat for many animal species. Through programs to improve and protect habitat in the remain-

ing wild areas, programs supported by hunter money, we can continue to maintain viable and thriving wildlife populations.

The anti's will say baiting and hound hunting are unsporting and that the animals don't have a chance. They won't tell you that despite these two techniques the success rate of harvesting a bear in Michigan is just 27 percent. The odds are heavily in favor of the bear.

The anti's will say hunters are only interested in the kill, not the welfare of the species. They won't tell you that in the last 25 years, because of hunter concerns, the black bear has risen from a varmint that was killed at will, to a prized game species, protected by law and hunted only during a highly regulated season. They won't tell you that hunter money continues to support black bear research programs. And they won't admit that if they win this initiative they will be back here in the near future trying to eliminate bow hunting, rabbit hunting or bird hunting behind a dog.

Without these two time-honored techniques bear hunting in Michigan will die. Ninety-six percent of Michigan's annual black bear harvest comes through the use of these techniques — seventy-six percent of last year's bear harvest was taken over bait and 20 percent was taken behind hounds. Without these techniques, the Michigan bear hunter, bear research and bear habitat protection and restoration will likely become extinct.

Then what will happen to the prized Michigan black bear?

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