

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

ARCHERY

BROADHEAD MEETS
A broadhead league meets 5-7 p.m. every Wednesday, beginning June 7th, at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield, (810) 661-9610.

3D SHOOT

The Washtenaw County Sportsman's Club will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday on its walk-through range near Ypsilanti, (313) 481-1038 or (313) 672-7772.

3D SHOOT

The Linden Sportsman's Club will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday on its walk-through range in Linden, (810) 629-0478 or (810) 629-0533.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

FREE 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.

BEAR HUNTING

June 30 is the deadline to apply for a fall bear hunting license.

CLASSES

FLY FISHING CONCLAVE

The public is invited to join the Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers in its 17th annual Fly Fishing Conclave, June 10-18, at the McMillan 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 Jim Schramm at (616) 869-5487.

METROPARKS

BOONIGHT WALK

Children ages 4-7 will take a short night hike, then gather indoors to share a bedtime story and snack in this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Indian Springs.

BIKE 'N' HIKE

A bike ride combined with short hikes off the bike trail to visit special areas of the park, begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.

BACK COUNTRY BIRDING

Bring binoculars for a slow-paced search for nesting birds in some of the less-frequented areas of the park in this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kensington.

FETAL PICKS

A hike through fields to learn

about early summer bloomers, along with a chance to make flowers to use in decorating will be offered in this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

SLOPPIN' THE HOGS

A chance for ages five and older to help feed the farm animals begins at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Farm Center.

EVENING SPRING HIKE

A leisurely stroll to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of spring along the trails begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Indian Springs.

TOT LOT

Youngsters will enjoy stories, activities and an occasional critter or outdoor exploration in this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

SKULLDUGGERY

Learn some of the unusual characteristics of different animal skulls that are used to identify them during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

WILDFLOWER WALK

A nature hike in search of early bloomers, begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

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, 1-800-477-3152; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

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.

TUNING YOUR TOT INTO SPRING

Children ages 3-6 accompanied by an adult can "tune" the magic of the season through a mix of stories, songs, a nature hike, crafts and more during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks.

SPRING STAR PARTY

Learn the unique features of the spring skies with the Nature Center staff and volunteers from the Oakland Astronomy Club during this program, which begins at 9 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks.

CAMPFIRE CANOE

Learn about wetlands wildlife during a guided canoe tour of Crooked Lake then enjoy songs and marshmallows around a campfire in this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 10, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park is offering nature interpretive programs throughout the summer. The park is located on Eight Mile Road, one mile west of Beck, in Northville Twp. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into the park, (810) 349-8390.

MAYBURY MAMMALS

Learn about some of the local mammals during this naturalist-led hike, which begins at 7 p.m. Friday at Maybury.

FARM STORIES

Learn about our feathered friends through a story and a craft during this program, which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday at Maybury.

Time has come to raise fees



BILL PARKER

Not since 1980 have hunting and fishing license fees increased, but that will undoubtedly change by next year.

The Game and Fish Protection Fund — which subsidizes most of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement divisions and is funded mainly through fishing and hunting license revenue — is facing a \$5.6 million deficit in the fiscal year 1995-96. Subsequently, the DNR has recently proposed the first hunting and fishing license fee increases in the last decade.

"We're making cuts in wildlife and fisheries (divisions), as well as proposing license increases to meet the deficit," explained George Burgoyne, head of the DNR's Wildlife Division. He went on to point out that the cuts will not affect the law enforcement division this year. "There will be no concession of any kind this year," Burgoyne said. "The cuts will be to the wildlife and fisheries divisions."

Originally, like most I'm sure, I was opposed to any license fee hikes, but when I put things into perspective, I realized we've been quite fortunate. It's been 10 years since hunting and fishing license fees have been raised and during that time the Consumer Price Index has risen 41 percent. Name anything on which the price hasn't risen in 10 years? I

guess the time has come. In 1986 the DNR raised license fees a whopping 35 percent. That increase was projected to be adequate to support the wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement programs through 1991. But careful management and program and staff reductions have enabled the DNR to get by for an additional five years without another increase.

The proposed increases won't raise the license fees drastically. Most license fees won't increase by more than a dollar or two on the average. Instead, the DNR proposes to increase revenue by creating more licenses, which will also give Michigan a larger number of licenses on which they can apply for federal funding.

Unlike their proposal earlier this year, which called for several wacky combined licenses, the new proposal leaves things pretty much the way they are. The major proposed changes, several of which have generated a fair share of controversy, would affect junior and senior hunters and anglers. For example, the DNR proposes a junior firearm deer license for youths ages 12-13 who have successfully completed a hunter's safety class. Seniors would pay more to hunt and fish under the new proposal. Instead of the current \$1 license for seniors, they would pay approximately 50 percent of the total cost of each license they purchase. Also, the senior license would no longer cover the spouse.

There are some positive proposals as well, like revamping the commercial fishery licensing process so it would pay for itself. Although not part of the original

LICENSE FEE INCREASES PROPOSED BY MICHIGAN DNR				
LICENSE	CURRENT	PROPOSED	Fishing	
Small Game	\$10.35	\$13.00	Jr. Fishing	\$10.35 \$12.00
Jr. Small Game	\$5.00	\$6.50	St. Fishing	\$6.50 \$8.00
Fr. Small Game	\$5.00	\$6.50	Daily Fishing	\$2.25 \$2.50
Firearms Deer	\$13.35	\$13.00	Trout Stamp	\$10.35 \$13.00
Fr. Firearms Deer	—	\$6.50	Jr. Trout Stamp	— \$5.00
Archery Deer	\$13.35	\$13.00	Spectator	\$42.85 \$55.00
Jr. Archery Deer	\$7.10	\$6.50	Shooting Preserve	\$9.35 \$13.00
Antlerless Deer	\$3.50	\$4.00	State Waterfowl	\$4.35 \$5.00
Ch. App.	\$4.50	\$5.00	PROPOSED NONRESIDENT FEES	
Ch. Lic.	\$100.85	\$100.00	Fishing	\$20.85 \$25.00
Turkey App.	\$3.50	\$4.00	Trout Stamp	\$10.35 \$13.00
Turkey License	\$9.85	\$13.00	3-Day Small Game	\$20.85 \$25.00
Fr. Turkey App.	\$3.50	\$4.00	Small Game	\$50.85 \$60.00
St. Turkey License	\$1.00	\$6.50	Firearms Deer	\$100.85 \$120.00
Beaver Application	—	\$4.00	Fr. Firearms Deer	\$175.85 \$120.00
Beaver License	\$14.85	\$13.00	Turkey App.	\$3.50 \$4.00
For Harvester	\$15.85	\$13.00	Turkey License	\$52.85 \$60.00
			For Harvester	\$150.85 \$150.00
			Beaver	\$150.85 \$150.00

proposal, several concepts have been brought up for discussion. There has been talk of eliminating the antlerless deer on the first bow license and increasing the price of an antlerless deer permit to be the same as an archery of firearms license. The holder of an antlerless deer permit would then have a choice of using the permit during the archery season or the firearms season. This would enable the DNR to better regulate the antlerless deer harvest.

There has also been discussion on merging the fishing license and the trout/salmon stamp and forming one license which would enable the holder to catch and keep any species of game fish.

Preference systems have been considered where limited permits are available like turkey, bear and elk, but no decision has yet been made.

There was also talk of offering individual or family license pack-

ages for a discount. For example, if a family purchased four fishing licenses at the same time the licenses could be sold for a slightly reduced rate, or offering an individual an opportunity to make up his own sportsman license of four different licenses for a reduced price. Again, no decision has been made to add this type of an option to the proposal.

The DNR has just completed a series of public meetings to gather input on this issue. Once a decision is made and an official proposal is presented, the proposal must meet the approval of the state legislature before the increases will be official.

Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009. Fax information to (810) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (810) 901-2573.

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