

Hunters can sharpen skills at shooting ranges



BILL PARKER

With the "Dog Days" of summer at hand, it won't be long before the winds of change usher in cooler weather and the bountiful harvest of fall. And with the change of seasons come a change of activities for Michigan's one million-plus sportsmen and sportswomen as fishing rods are replaced with rifles, shotguns and bows.

Opening day is just a few weeks away. The early elk season begins Sept. 8, bear season opens Sept. 10, small game season starts Sept. 16 and archery deer season begins Oct. 1. If you haven't begun honing your shooting skills, time is running out.

Shooting ranges are open at several locations in Wayne and Oakland counties but be sure to call ahead to see what time the range is open to the public. Many private clubs are open for members only at certain times and open to the public at others.

Shooting ranges are offered at both the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area near Waterford, (810) 868-1020, and the Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion, (810) 814-9193. Shooting opportunities are also available at the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association in Walled Lake, (810) 383-7030; the Detroit Gun Club in Walled Lake, (810) 824-9647; the Western Wayne County Conservation Association in Plymouth, (313) 453-8048; the Wayne County Sportsman's Club in Romulus, (313) 941-9688; the Oakland County Sportsman's Club in Clarkston, (810) 823-0444; and the North Oakland Sportsman's Club in Oxford, (810) 629-8137. Archery shooting opportunities exist at many of the above locations as well as Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield, (810) 681-2550, and Royal Oak Archers in Lake Orion, (810) 693-9798.

Base Champions

A pair of Rochester anglers topped the seven-bait field in

the Bass Champions Tournament for Michigan Division I held recently on the Detroit River. With a five-fish limit that weighed 13.18 pounds, David A. Fairchild and David W. Fairchild claimed the top prize of \$490. Auburn Hills anglers Mark Malvich and Mike McQueen placed second with five fish that tipped the scale at 11.93 pounds and Redford's Louie Favaro and Joe Favaro placed third with five fish which weighed 10.99 pounds.

The final Bass Champions Michigan Division Tournament will be held Saturday, Aug. 24, on the Detroit River. Call Mike Dyer at (810) 674-1472 for additional information.

PWT update

Two local anglers competed in the three-day In-Fisherman Professional Walleye Trail Lubri-Mate/Siren Eastern Pro-A tournament recently on Saginaw Bay.

Thomas Roseman of Farmington Hills caught 10 walleye for a total weight of 45.02 pounds, while Bob Zenara of Plymouth netted three fish which weighed 20.34 pounds. Both anglers were competing in the amateur division. Fred Goodrow of Au Gres won the amateur division with 15 fish which tipped the scale at 102.39 pounds. Shannon Kehl, a resident of Blomark, North Dakota, topped the pro division with 18 fish and a total weight of 118 pounds. Goodrow also captured the biggest fish award with a whopping 11.48-pounder. The tournament attracted 127 professional walleye anglers and 123 amateurs.

Bass Bash results

Oxford resident Billy Edwards teamed up with Warren's Jeff Shafrenski to win the Bass Bash tournament Saturday on Stringer Lake in Oxford. The duo netted four largemouth with a total weight of 7 pounds, 2 ounces.

Second place went to Dale Caddick of Lake Orion and Mark Lamphiere of Waterford with four fish that weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.

Wear a life jacket

With one of the busiest boating weekends rapidly approaching it's a good time to remind boaters to wear a life jacket. This reminder isn't just for Labor Day weekend, but for the entire boating season.

Approximately 80 percent of water fatalities in Michigan could have been prevented if the victims had been wearing life jackets, according to K.L. Cool, director of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which helps enforce boating regulations in the state.

The DNR is currently conducting a children's life jacket giveaway in an effort to promote safety on the water. DNR conservation officers on patrol at popular recreation areas across the

state are distributing postcards to young boaters who can enter a drawing to win a life jacket. A total of 260 life jackets have been donated to the program by AAA of Michigan, Stearns manufacturing, Wellington Water Sports and the Michigan DNR. "This promotion is our way of letting Michigan boaters know it's important to wear a life jacket on board," said Cool. "We want to encourage people to be safe on the water and look forward to many more years of enjoying their sport."

According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics through September of 1995, Michigan leads the nation with 898,300 registered boats. California is second at 838,500 and Minnesota is third with 738,000. In Michigan, Oakland and Wayne county resident own the most boats with Oakland County leading the way with 90,748 registered boats and Wayne County checking in with 84,094.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

VOLUNTEERS

HURON RIVER CLEANUP
The 10th annual Huron River Cleanup, covering the northern stretches of the Huron river in Oakland County, will be held Sunday, Aug. 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The rain date is Aug. 24. Participants will meet at the Kennington Metropark group campground and will be transported by van to a canoe pick-up point. To reserve a canoe and for more information call Phyllis Motley at (810) 685-7129.

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. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Dearborn Civic Center. Call (313) 678-2863 for more information.

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. Call Sam Pilato at (313) 420-0621 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Garden City High School. Call (313) 420-0621 for more information.

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, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-5182; Kennington, 1-800-477-5178.

CAMPFIRE ON THE BEACH
Roses the Clown will provide the magic and balloon animals at this hotdog roast, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

BAT 'N' UP
Learn about bats during this slide presentation and observation session, which begins at 8 p.m. Friday at Indian Springs.

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Ticket prices start at only \$5, available at The Palace and Neon Kids box office and www.neon.com. Charge by phone at (877) 645-6666 or call (810) 377-0000 for more information.

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