

Outdoorama always has plenty to offer

The west wind billowed out of the cloudy sky and rolled down the snow-covered hill at the east end of the lake.

Gaining momentum, the wind whipped over the frigid ice and snow, the blast of arctic cold zeroed in on the eastern end of the lake where I was fishing and crashed into me like a frosty 600-pound Ekimo.

Although I was bundled up appropriately for a day on the ice, the wintry blast caught me off guard.

Shivering from the chilly invasion, I turned up my collar, tugged up the zipper on my coveralls and dug my free hand into the depths of a warm, empty pocket.

As long as I kept my back to the west, it wasn't too bad, although the fingers on my dithering hand were beginning to tingle.

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

I'm a bare-finger fisherman when winter takes control of the outdoors. The most ice fishermen in search of panfish prefer to keep surveillance on a tiny spring bobber. I opt for the bare finger method. I like to hold my two-pound test fishing line on the tips of my fingers so I can actually feel a nibble, rather than see it from the movement in the bobber.

The only problem is an obvious one: bare fingers weren't designed to hold fishing line throughout a frigid winter day. After five minutes of fishing, its time to switch hands.

Hole drilled, hook baited and fingers warmed I sat down on my bucket, dropped my line into the water and waited for that ever-familiar tug at the other end.

I waited...

Time passed slowly... My mind wandered off to warmer thoughts: a bright sunny morning in the spring turkey woods, a warm summer evening on my favorite bass lake, a trip to the Outdoorama Sport and Travel Show.

That last thought got me thinking about the show itself, which opens Friday at the Novi Civic Center and runs through Sunday, March 2.

Outdoorama is always welcomed with a warm glow in my heart, probably because of fond memories of my dad taking my brothers and me to the show as kids.

Some of my favorite activities are still part of the longest-running outdoor show in the state, which is celebrating its 24th anniversary.

The trout pond (where I caught my very first trout), the always entertaining lumberjack show, the highly anticipated arrival of Big Buck Night (Thursday, Feb. 27), the enticing aroma of cinnamon-roasted almonds and, of course, all the hunting, fishing, camping and boating supplies that are long-time staples of the show.

There are also newer attractions that have popped up since I was a youngster that make Outdoorama even more alluring. One of the new highlights is the Outdoor Wildlife Encounters Exhibit, which provides a close-up view of live birds of prey and

wetland species.

Some of the other special attractions at this year's show include an archery center where archers can practice or compete in an ASA tournament (Feb. 21-22), an Outdoorama Fun Shoot (Feb. 23-26), or a national IBO qualifier (Feb. 27-March 2); a showhouse with live ducks and upland game birds; one of the largest collection of venomous snakes and reptiles in North America; a fast-paced juggling and variety act by the Zucchini Brothers; and a comedy act by Canadian comedian Red Grogan.

There will also be a slew of informative seminars, a white-tail butchering demonstration (March 1), and the 15th Annual Michigan Wild Turkey Calling Clinic (March 1).

Several nights have special themes including Ladies Night (Feb. 21), Gander Mountain Fishing and Boating Weekend (Feb. 22-23), Jay's Sporting Goods New Products Night (Feb. 24), Pet Supplies Plus Sporting Dog Night (Feb. 25), Ted Nugent Bow Hunting Night (Feb. 26), Big Buck Brewery's Big Buck Night (Feb. 27), Kids Night (Feb.

28) and Michigan Out-of-Doors Travel and Retail Weekends (March 1-2).

A slight tap on my finger tips drew me back to reality. I quickly set the hook, but my quarry got the better of me this time as I pulled up an empty hook.

The fishing show was on this wintry afternoon, but the nice thing about a slow day on the ice is that you have plenty of time to think about and plan future outings.

If your favorite fishing hole quicks down for a day or two, make the trek to the Novi Expo Center and spend a day at the Outdoorama Sport and Travel Show.

Admission is \$6.50 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. Children under the age of 5 will be admitted free.

A two-day adult pass is \$10 and a two-day child pass is \$5. The show hours are 4-9:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 24-25, and Thursday and Friday, Feb. 27-28; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Feb. 22 and March 1; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Feb.

23; noon-9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 2.

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

Age 50 & over SENIOR Golf Tournaments

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In 1997, the 455-member nonprofit MPSGA is planning 5 18-hole Tournaments with 12 flights (Membership Inc. 5 green fees - only 100), Seniors Match Play event, 3-4 p.m. 54-hole State Championships (10 flights), and Fall Scramble. Limited openings for new members.

Call or write for 1997 Schedule / Entry Forms
MPSGA Michigan Public Senior Golf Association
25701 Allen Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48331
Phone 810-548-3222

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

SHOWS/FESTIVALS

OUTDOORAMA
The 1997 Outdoorama Sport and Travel Show will be held Feb. 21-March 2 at the Novi Expo Center. Rochester's Dave Fairchild will present a seminar on smallmouth bass fishing on Lake St. Clair beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

SPORTFISHING EXPO
The ninth annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing Expo will be held March 6-9 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

NOVI BOATING EXPO
The 5th annual Novi Boating Expo will be held March 12-16 at the Novi Expo Center.

WILDLIFE ART FESTIVAL
The 14th annual Michigan Wildlife Art Festival will be held March 14-16 at the Southfield Pavilion. Call (517) 882-3630 for more information.

BANQUETS

BIG GAME HUNTERS
The Michigan Big Game Hunters Association will hold its ninth annual banquet and fund raiser beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at Red Fawn Hall in Allen Park. Call (313) 613-7471 for more information.

SEASONS/DATES

RABBIT
Statewide through March 31.

WATERFOWL STAMPS

Michigan artists have until April 21 to submit their artwork for the Michigan DNR's 1998 waterfowl hunting season stamp. No entry fee is required. Call (517) 373-9313 for more information.

FISHING CLUBS

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call (313) 420-4481 for more information.

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 (416) 478-1494 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 Pilate at (313) 420-0521 for more information.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (616) 656-0556 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) 676-2863 for more information.

ARCHERY

INDOOR LEAGUES

Several winter indoor leagues are forming at Red Oaks Archery in Metromare. Red Oaks features a Dart Tournament, an indoor 3D range with a moving buck, and a standard target range. Call (810) 628-1661 for more information.

3D SHOOT

The Oakland County Sportsman Club will hold a 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, March 9, on its walk-through course at Clarkston. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information. A pancake breakfast begins at 8 a.m.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information.

NFAA CHAMPIONSHIPS
Detroit Archers will host the Tri-County NFAA Championships on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22-23. Saturday lines begin at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday lines begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call (810) 626-8403 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, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

FULL MOON WALK
Experience the Frog Moon while strolling the nature trails with a naturalist during this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, at Kensington. A similar program begins at 7 p.m. at Stony Creek.

SNOW SMART
Discover some of the wonders of snow, including how it is formed and the effect it has on plants and animals during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

BLUEBIRD BOXES
Learn how to build a bluebird box and how to attract bluebirds to your backyard during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

MAPLE'S SWEET STORY
Visit the sugar bush and see how maple trees are tapped and how the sap is collected. Then stop by the sugar shack and see how the sap is boiled down into syrup during this program, which begins at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Kensington Farm Center.

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.

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Bowling community loses legend in Darold Dobs

Darold Dobs, Executive Director of the American Bowling Congress, passed away last week at the age of 54.

Most readers of this column never knew Mr. Dobs. I had never met the man, but with the news of his death I contacted the one person around here who knew him quite well.

This would be our own Tom McKay, past President of the ABC for the past eight years. The Bowlers Journal named him The Most Influential Man in Bowling two years in a row.

"He was a very sincere individual, totally honest and up front about everything," McKay said. "He was a very good golfer in addition to being a fine bowler."

Dobs had competed for many years in the all-star leagues around his hometown of Milwaukee.

He had been battling cancer for awhile and, just as in the game of bowling, you cannot win every fight. This is a big loss to the bowling community nationwide.

Now for some good news. Peggy Smitley of Westland fired her first 300 game at Garden Lanes in Garden City.

She had been trying for this ultimate goal over 25 years of competitive bowling, and now she has the magic euphoria that comes with the achievement of a perfect game.

some years back, and the 718 series was also her first 700 set.

Peggy competes in four leagues, including the All-Star Bowlerettes where she is currently averaging 201.

The ball she was using for her perfect was a Pulse by Columbia 300. That is the same type recently used by the first sanctioned 900 bowler in Michigan.

Peggy also wears a Cobra wrist device as she has some arm and shoulder problems but not enough to keep her from bowling such fine scores.

The National Seniors Bowling Association (NSBA) began 1997 with the monthly action taking place at Westland Bowl.

Observerland bowlers fared pretty well to start the new year right, even though the top prize went to Ohion Derek Smith.

Roy Biggs of Canton took second place (\$500). Bob O'Brien of Farmington Hills third (\$250), Bill Haynes, Rochester Hills, sixth; Neil Beckman, Southfield, seventh; and Chuck O'Rourke, Livonia, 13th.

Other finalists in the money were James Clark of Rochester Hills, Jim Hacht of Farmington Hills and Bill Funke of Livonia.

For information on NSBA action, call the tournament office at (810) 832-LANE or (810) 851-7454.

299 for a 779 series; his wife, Chris, had 222-226-289 for a 737 set; partner Dave shot 235-238-298 for a 771.

That adds up to a team total of 2,287 actual.

Hubby and wife Bob and Chris combined for 588 in one game with their 299 and 289.

How's that for togetherness?

BOWLING HONOR ROLL

County Lanes (Farmington): Steve Sings (15) 235-239-234/708.
— Lynne Westger, 210; Wendy Lord, 212; Michelle Gill, 200.
Prince of Peace — Rosemary Whitman, 208/512.

Wednesday Knights — Jim Sockow, 257-258/696; Stuart Levy, 255-231/697; Mark Gurdie, 267/682; Scott McGee, 244; Kevin Kernen, 256.

Loon Lake — Leon Gribick, 245-230/678; Larry Miller, 243-222/684; Curt Caley, 235; Don Wagner, 230/570; Lou Young, 225/589.

Greenfield Mixed — Ryan Wilson, 259-217-208/744; Bill West, 245-247/685; Chuck O'Rourke, 227-237-213/697; Danny Wright, 246-224/682; Martin Luncford, 236/638.

County Keglers — Joe Menardi, 276/633; Dean Johnson, 258/672; Bob Simko, 267/720; Ron Kuhn, 256/682; John Elrod, 255.

County Jones — Lin Huber, 248/617; Sue Sczepaniak, 212/592; Terry Layman, 208/540; Betty Bemis, 208; Cindy Durham, 204.

Western Women — Rita Borrelli, 210; Donna Little, 200/506.

Drakeholes Lanes (Farmington): Merchant Men — Terry Robertson, 216.

Bel Air Lanes (Farmington): Our Lady of Sorrows — Dennis Vayns, 209-238/631; G. Trullen, 218-204/621; John Everett, 202-212/604; Steve Akey, 240; Ray Rutkowski, 231.

Michigan Bell Men's — Bob Worges, 223-202/601; Steve Fedenko, 217-206/603; Chuck Homan, 237-210/629; Dennis Vayns, 208-205-210/636.

Keglers — Fred Abbott, 244-213/653; John King, 248; Tim Kisaard, 228-226/630; Mike Katt, 238; Mike Stottemyer, 234.

Merit Bowl (Livonia): Last Weekenders — Jim Dost, 300/775; Mike Bauer, 269/734; Gay Kain, 268/678; Bill West, 257/709.

Chowdowns (Livonia): St. Agnes Men's — Cliff Merritt, 216-200/600; Tony Kaluzny, 229-215/611; Ed Schlicker, 237; Mike Polasky, 225-207; Don Traynor, 217.

All-Star Bowlerettes — Patsy Wray, 235-237-235/737; Novella White, 212-207-226/705; Joji Woessner, 288/689; Michelle Arner, 269/687; Sandy Winbiger, 258-244/655; Joe Fox, 279/671.

Woodland Lanes (Livonia): Senior House — Jeff Rouchie, 279-279/798; Bill Morris, 299-123-211/645; Doug Spicer, 279/754; Doug Spicer, 279/751; Brian Zienka, 732.

Micnight Mixed — Tom Schultz, 278/697; Bill Moreau, 257/688; John Hurley, 278/664; Joe Harris, 264; Joe Slinger, 268/600.

Gay 90's (seniors) — Paul Brewer, 243/620.

Woodland Rangers (youth) — Dustin Kuras (15) 235-239-234/708.

Uvonia Strikers — Ron Dudley, 300.

Uvonia Skins Mixed — Joe Heim, 246-300-234/780; John Hurley, 224-232-248/704; Chad Powell, 245-231/651; Nancy Rose, 242/600.

Belairs — Bill Dowell, 267/660; Randy Smith, 266/691; Tom Martin, 258/691; John Lake, Jr., 256/704; Vaughn Pichler, 250.

Men's Trio — Dave Maran, 279/707; Frank Hoffman, 279/751; Keith Suda, 279/680; Dennis Seaman, 276/663; Mark Hower, 715.

County Lanes — Craig Johnson, 279/730; Doug Spicer, 279/742; Arnie Goldman, 267/621; Ken Duth, 269/606; Jeff Roche, 265/714.

Men's Trio — Scott Linnard, 267/712; Dennis Seaman, 268/745; Rick Gaudin, 729.

Jeff Lovelace, 710; John Weiss, 259-269/680.

Goys & Dolls (seniors) — Ed Zdanowski, 266.

Spacemakers — Michelle Maran, 233.

Tor Parts — Joe Castle, 208; Dave Gowan, 285; Max Rishi, 279/679; Frank McMillen, 269/658; Dale Woodford, 276/705; Phil Linkman, 255/673.

Radford Bowl (Radford): Suburban Prop. Travel (men) — John Clark, 207/658; Tony Claybourne, 243; Harlie Graves, 238/600; Tony Kuyens, 234-234/613; Mike Mah, 231.

Suburban Prop. Travel (ladies) — Janet Dearing, 232/597; Barb Hernandez, 212/547; Sue Buehler, 218/570; Iris Monto, 209/522; Pat Garry, 207.

Plum Hollow Lanes (Southfield): Night Train Express — Steve Williams, 232-226-232/690.

Providence Mixed: Ethel Lewis, 203-217/545.

181 Mixed: Steve Bryce, 203-225-205/603.

Monday Mixers (seniors): Abe Brownson, 215-265/647.

Saturday Youth: Don Barber, 203; Larry Matthes, 209.

Pin Dippers: Bonnie Cook, 213-201/529 (139 pins @ 4).