

Summertime means family camping trips

Our new/used pop-up camper is packed and ready to roll. Headed north this summer for some family camping and healthy outdoor recreation.



My wife, Donna, daughters Jenelle and Kayle and myself have been a tent family in the past, but thanks to the generosity of my brother and his family I'm the proud owner of a late model Stücraft pop-up.

I'm actually looking forward to not sleeping on the ground for a change. Don't get me wrong; tenting is great, and I'll hold on to our tent for a while, but it was time for a slight step up.

As I was sealing and cleaning and generally propping the pop-up for summer, I realized we don't have to go 'Up North' to enjoy the abundant inland lakes and streams and the beautiful forests and woodlands Michigan has to offer.

Within an hour or so drive from O&E-land are more than a dozen state parks, state recreation areas and Oakland County parks offering some type of camping facilities.

Most of these local parks offer modern camping facilities, which include electric hookups, modern toilet buildings, showers and handicap-accessible sites. Some offer rustic camping sites, which translate into vault toilets (an outhouse) and a hand pump for water.

A few parks offer equestrian campgrounds, which include

vault toilets, hand pumps for water and hitching posts for the horses. Others offer rental of tents or teepees, which come equipped with cots, foam pads, a broom and a picnic table. A couple of the parks also offer rental of rustic cabins (accommodations for 4-24 people, vault toilets and a hand pump) and mini cabins (accommodations for four people, located near modern restroom facilities, electricity furnished).

Following is an alphabetical list of area state and county parks which offer camping facilities:

ADDISON OAKS: This Oakland County Park is located on Romeo Road in Leonard, north of Rochester. The park offers both modern and rustic camping facilities and swimming, boating and fishing are popular activities on Bull Lake. Call (248) 693-2432 for reservations.

BALD MOUNTAIN: A state recreation area popular with hikers and anglers because of its 4,637 acres of rolling woodlands, 11 lakes and two trout streams. Located on Greenfield Road in Lake Orion, Bald Mountain offers rustic cabin rental only. Call (248) 693-8787 for reservations.

BRIGHTON: The Brighton State Recreation Area is located on Chittler Road in Howell. This recreation area offers 222 campsites including modern and rustic facilities and handicap accessible rustic cabins. The Brighton Recreation Area is a dream stop for horse lovers featuring a riding arena, a glazing area, equestrian camping and 18 miles of bridle trails. Anglers find enjoyment on the 10 lakes in the park. Call (810) 229-6566 for reservations.

GROVELAND OAKS: Another of Oakland County's magnificent parks, Groveland Oaks is located on Dixie Highway in Holly and offers both modern and rustic camping, a lake for swimming, boating and fishing, and other activities. Call (810) 634-9811 for reservations.

HIGHLAND: The Highland State Recreation Area is located on Highland Road in White Lake and covers 6,538 acres. The state recreation area offers horseback riding and mountain biking areas, a 546-acre Haven Hill Nature Area as well as fishing and swimming in Tropic Lake. Camping facilities are limited to rustic camping and 30 sites are available. Call (248) 685-2433 for reservations.

HOLLY: The Holly State Recreation Area offers modern camping as well as rustic cabin, mini cabin and tent/campsite. The state recreation area has 161 campsites sites, 17 lakes, covers 7,741 acres and is located on Grange Hall Road in Holly. Call (810) 634-8811 for reservations.

ISLAND: This state recreation area offers a unique opportunity to canoe the Huron River and camp at a wilderness canoe campsite. Rustic cabin rental is also available at the 3,466-acre park. Island Lake is located on E. Grand River Ave. in Brighton. Call (810) 229-7087 for reservations.

METAMORA-HADLEY: With rolling hills, inland lakes and 863 acres of woodlands, the Metamora-Hadley State Recreation Area provides "a northern Michigan atmosphere here in southeastern Michigan." Located on Hurd Road in Metamora,

north of Oxford, this state recreation area offers modern camping facilities and mini cabin rental and has a total of 220 campsites. Call (810) 797-4439 for reservations.

ORTONVILLE: Tucked away on Hadley Road in Ortonville, north of Clarkston, the 6,007-acre Ortonville State Recreation Area is a haven for swimmers, boaters, anglers, hikers, horseback riders and mountain bikers. The state recreation area features rustic and equestrian camping facilities as well as rustic cabin rentals. There are 14 miles of hiking trails, a shooting range, 19 lakes and 26 campsites. Call (810) 627-3828 for reservations.

PINCKNEY: Located on Silver Hill Road in Pinckney, the 11,000-acre Pinckney State Recreation Area is a favored stop for hikers and backpackers. The state recreation area features an extensive trail system, which is connected to the 48-mile Waterloo-Pinckney Trail, the longest hiking trail in lower Michigan. There are 240 modern and rustic camping sites as well as five hike-in campsites. The recreation area also features 28-miles of mountain biking trails and Half-Moon Chain of Lakes provides exceptional fishing, paddling, boating and swimming opportunities. Call (313) 426-4913 for reservations.

PONTIAC LAKE: Another haven for boaters, anglers and swimmers, Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area features a boat launch and a fishing pier on Pontiac Lake and a 1/2-mile long beach. Located on Gale Road in Waterford, the park has both modern and equestrian

camping facilities, 176 campsites and covers 3,709 acres. Call (248) 666-1020, for reservations.

PROUD LAKE: With 130 modern campsites and mini cabin rental available, the Proud Lake State Recreation Area offers a quaint, but close getaway. Hikers can explore the 3,614 acres of the park and swimmers, boaters and anglers can explore Moss Lake, Proud Lake and the Huron River. The recreation area is located on Wixom Road in Milford. Call (248) 685-2433 for reservations.

SEVEN LAKES: Located on Tinsman Road in Fenton, Seven Lakes State Park features handicap accessible modern camping facilities. Fishing, swimming and boating are popular at the park, which surrounds Dickinson and Seven lakes. The park features 78 campsites and covers 1,434 acres. Call (810) 634-7271 for reservations.

STERLING: Lagoons and marshes along Lake Erie provide excellent bird and wildlife viewing opportunities at Sterling State Park. Located on State Park Road in Monroe, Sterling is the only state park on Lake Erie,

offers boating, fishing and swimming and features handicap accessible modern camping facilities and 288 campsites. Call (313) 289-2716 for reservations.

WATERLOO: The largest park in the Lower Peninsula, the Waterloo State Recreation Area covers 20,367 acres and features 434 modern, rustic and equestrian camping sites and offers mini and rustic cabin rental. The park also features 11 lakes, 47 miles of hiking trails connected to the Waterloo-Pinckney Trail as well as equestrian trails and camping facilities. The park is located on McClure Road in Chelsea. Call (313) 476-8307 for reservations.

Presently, my family plans call for a trip to Rose City, on the Stuyard and another to the Sterling area. But I won't be surprised if one of those weekends we load up the gear and head out to one of these local parks.

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

SEASONS/DATES

BLK
July 15 is the deadline to apply for a 1997 Michigan oil permit. There will be two hunts, September 19-21 and December 9-16. Unsuccessful applicants for the September hunt will automatically be entered in the drawing for the December hunt.

STURGEON
Take sturgeon season opens July 23rd. Great Lakes waters and connecting waters.

FISHING CLUBS

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (810) 666-0566 for more information.

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. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

Wednesday of each month at the Maplewood Center in Garden City. Call Jim Kudej at (313) 591-0843 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.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Michigan 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, 1-800-477-3178; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

TOT LOT
A half-hour nature program for tots on a surprise topic begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, June 29, at Indian Springs.

NATURE PAINTING FOR KIDS
Young artists in grades 1-3 will have fun painting outdoors during this program at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

BUTTERFLIES AND HUMMINGBIRDS
Slides, discussion and observation will be used to help you plan a colorful backyard garden designed to attract butterflies and hummingbirds during this

program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

OAKLAND 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.

ANIMAL AEROBICS
Children ages 7-11 can leap like a frog and fly like a bird as they enjoy light cardio and learn about the animals that share our planet during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 7, Wednesday, July 9, and Friday, July 11.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
State park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 348-3900. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 633-8787. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

FISHING IN THE PARKS
A program designed to introduce individuals and families to the fun of fishing and to help them get acquainted with nature will

be held Tuesday evenings through Aug. 12 at Island Lake, Metamora-Hadley and Pontiac Lake recreation areas.

WILDFLOWER WALK
Check out the wildflowers in the park during this naturalized walk, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Proud Lake.

SNAKE SENSES
Learn how snakes live, move and much more during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 1, at Proud Lake.

Impotence - you should know the facts.

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