

Hunters: Here's latest on 1997 waterfowl season

It's here. Fall has arrived. Bear, early goose and early elk seasons (which all offer limited hunting in selected areas of the state) aside, Monday's small game season opener officially kicked off the fall hunting seasons statewide.

Hunters have been kept in the dark this year about season dates and regulations because the 1997-98 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide were late to arrive at license dealers. Fortunately, that guide is now avail-



BILL PARKER

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS

able. Waterfowl hunters should also be in the know about their sport since the 1997-98 waterfowl guides were due out on Monday. In case you haven't heard, here's the scoop on the upcoming waterfowl seasons.

In the North and Middle zones, duck season runs Oct. 4-Dec. 2 while the regular Canada goose season will be Oct. 4-19.

In the South Zone, duck season runs Oct. 11-Dec. 9. Canada goose season will be Oct. 11-19 and Nov. 27-Dec. 7. In the Allegan GMU the season will be Oct. 11 (youths must hunt at the state game area only) and Oct. 18-Nov. 26. In the Muskegon GMU the season will run Oct. 25-Nov. 14 and Dec. 1-12. In the Saginaw GMU the season will be

held Oct. 11-Nov. 29 while in the Tuscola/Huron GMU the season is Oct. 11-Nov. 29.

There will again be a special late Canada goose season Jan. 2-Feb. 1. The boundaries for the late hunt have been changed this year and are now the same as those for the South Zone of the regular waterfowl season. The entire south zone is open during the late hunt with the exception of the Allegan, Muskegon, Westwater, Saginaw and Tuscola/Huron goose management units.

Youth Waterfowl Day

On Saturday the DNR is offering youths a special added opportunity to hunt waterfowl through its Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day. Only young

hunters between the ages of 12-15 will be allowed to hunt during this special day, which was established as a way of introducing youths to the sport of waterfowl. Young hunters may shoot ducks, mergansers, coots and gallinules. The daily bag limit is the same as during the regular waterfowl season and is listed in the Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide.

A small game or junior small game license is required by all young hunters participating in the hunt unless that hunt takes place upon their parent's enclosed farmlands where the youngster lives. Young hunters must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is 18 years of age or older, even if they are hunting on their parent's prop-

erty. The adult must only act as a guide and can not participate in the shooting. Accompanying adults may not hunt or possess a firearm or bow and arrow while afield with a youth who is participating in the youth waterfowl hunt. Since the adult can not hunt, he/she does not need a hunting license.

Tungsten-Iron shot OK'd

Non-toxic shot has been required for waterfowl hunting in Michigan since 1989. In past years, steel shot and bismuth-tin shot were the only choices waterfowlers had. You can now add tungsten-iron shot to that list. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently granted temporary approval for the use Tung-

sten-iron shot and the Michigan DNR followed suit and also approved its use for Michigan's 1997-98 waterfowl seasons.

Tungsten-iron shot reportedly holds tight patterns like steel shot and has a density equal to 94 percent of lead shot.

Like any shotgun shells or bullets, different sizes and loads perform differently in different guns. Waterfowl hunters are advised to try different loads at the shooting range before venturing afield.

Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. 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.

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

CLASSES

HUNTER SAFETY

The Wayne County Sportsmen's Club in Romulus will offer three two-day Michigan DNR Hunter Education Classes. The dates for the classes are Oct. 11-12, and Nov. 1-2. Preregistration is required and begins Sept. 10. Call (313) 532-0285.

HARVEST MOON

Take a naturalist-led hike and learn about the Harvest Moon during this class, which begins at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 339-3497 for more information.

FISHING

Parents and children can learn to fish together during this class, which begins at noon Saturday, Sept. 20, at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 339-3497.

PLANTS

Adults can learn about the plants pioneers used during daily life during this class, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21, at the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Hills. Call (248) 339-3497.

FLY TYING

Bucsters outdoors in Northville still has openings for its fall fly tying classes. Call (248) 349-

3677 for more information.

SEMINARS

WATERFOWL HUNTING

Paul Goodnuff, host of the local "Sportsman Show" will cover the basics of waterfowl hunting with emphasis on calling techniques, decoy layout and preparation for a successful hunt during this seminar, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Gander Mountain store in Taylor. The store is located at 14100 Pardee Road. Call (313) 287-7420 for more information.

ULTIMATE PEAKS

Brad Venzel will present a slide presentation and a discussion on his mountaineering experiences on Denali and Mount Everest during this seminar, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20, at REI in the Northville Center at Haggerty and Six Mile. Call (248) 347-2100.

SHOWS

BOAT SHOW

Boat Show USA, featuring more than 1,300 new and used boats of all sizes, runs through Sept. 21 at Metro Beach in Mount Clemens. Call (313) 884-1776.

SEASONS/DATES

BEAR

The 1997 bear season runs through Oct. 26.

DEER

An experimental antlerless-only deer season runs through Sept. 30 in Deer Management Unit 214 in south central Monominee County by special permit only. The early archery season for whitetail deer begins Wednesday, Oct. 1, statewide.

DUCKS

Duck season runs Oct. 4-Dec. 2 in the North and Middle zones and Oct. 11-Dec. 9 in the South Zone.

ELK

Early elk season runs through Sept. 21 in designated areas by special permit only.

GOOSE

Canada goose season runs Oct. 4-Oct. 19 in the North and Middle zones. The season runs Oct. 11-19 and Nov. 27-Dec. 7 in the South zone outside the five Goose management units. Check the 1997 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for dates of the season in the GMU's.

SMALL GAME

Rabbit, hare, squirrel and ruffed grouse seasons opened Monday statewide. There is no open sea-

son this year on sharp-tail grouse.

YOUTH WATERFOWL

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day is Saturday, Sept. 20.

WOODCOCK

Woodcock season runs Sept. 20-Nov. 3 statewide.

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 Civic Center. Call Jim Kudaj at (313) 591-0843.

FOUR SEASONS

The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Citizen's Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudaj at (313) 591-0843.

FISHING BUDDY

Fishing Buddy Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (810) 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 Downriver Civic Center. Call (313) 676-2863 for more information.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN

Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (squirrel & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours through Oct. 12 are: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays; 10 a.m. to sunset on Wednesdays; on Mondays and Tuesdays the rifle and pistol range is open 3 p.m. to sunset and the sporting clays course is open noon to sunset. The range is closed Thursdays and Fridays. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenfield Rd. (three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills). Call (810) 814-9193 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, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

TYING THE PARK TOGETHER

Celebrate the opening of a new 1.5-mile intrapark road that connects the Nature Interpretive Area to the main park during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

FALL FESTIVAL

A weekend of events including broom making, candle dipping, cider making, Roast the Clown and much more will be offered during this program, which will

be held Saturday and Sunday at Kensington.

WALK IN THE PARK

A naturalist-led walk to explore the park and to bid a fond farewell to summer begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Stony Creek.

PIONEERS OF THE FOREST

A discussion about the human and natural history of Michigan begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Indian Springs.

LEAF COLLECTING

Learn tree identification as well as the value of trees to people and wildlife during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Stony Creek.

OAKLAND PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS

Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register.

TUNING YOUR TOT INTO FALL

Children ages 3-6 and their parents or guardians can explore the season's sights, sounds, scents and textures during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24 and Thursday, Sept. 25 and again at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27.

FABULOUS FELINES

Learn about members of the cat family through stories, games and other educational activities during this program, which begins at 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, Wednesday, Oct. 1 and Wednesday, Oct. 8 at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A 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) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.



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the week, coaches' corner, former prep standouts who are now competing at the college level and take calls from Observer & Eccentric's sports editors with up-to-the-minute scores. Be there every Friday at 10 p.m.

Don't forget to tune in the Friday Night High School Football "Wrap-Up Show". This weekly program airs live from 10-11 p.m. every Friday throughout the football season. WXYZ Host like "The Mega Man" Griffin, highlights the player of

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