Turkey population thrives with help from hunters

Turkey hunting was, and continues to be, nothing short of sensational this spring with an abundance of birds in the northern Lower Peninsula. While the DNR receives due credit for Michigan's blossoming turkey population another organization should receive ample accolades for the terrific turkey hunting opportunities we enjoy in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula.

The Michigan Wild Turkey

Porning an Wild Turkey
Hunter's Association was catablished in 1996 and is addicated
to the long term enhancement
and preservation of the Eastern
wild turkey. The primary activity of the association, which curently has three chapters - Traverse Bay, Pere Marquette and
Mio-Au Sable River - and
approximately 1000 members

OUTDOORS

statewide, is to organize, finance and maintain a supplemental winter feeding program to insure that as many birda as possible make it through the tough northern Michigan winters.

"Wo get harsh winters up here and its tough on the birds," said former Birmingham resident Linda Gallagher, secretary of the MWTHA. "We average 240 inches of anow (in Antrim County). If we didn't feed them during the middle of the winter they'd be as scarce as bald eagles."

Gallagher is known as "The Turkey Lady" to the locals throughout the northwest County of the state. And for good resure of the state. And for good resure of the state. And for good resure filled days of winter Gallagher

volunteers her time for six to eight hours a day organizing the turkey feeding program in Area J and personally locating and tending to flocks. During the rest of the year she works with local land owners and farmers to create faverable turkey habitat and help reduce crop damage for farmers.

help reduce crop damage for farmers.

"Farmers are just as interest-di middlife as anyone else. We work hand-in-hand with the farmers on a year-around basis," asid Gallagher. "For the most part they like seeing turkeys, just not in their crops. We give them trees and shrubs that rafeverable to turkeys and give them eats and corn to plant. We try to provide them with some alternative food sources for wildlife and maybe we can keep some (wildlife) out of their

During a normal winter MWTHA's feeding program runs through January and February. Feeders, filled regularly with corn, are placed on elevated platforms in strategic areas where flocks are residing. During last year's mild winter MWTHA still shelled out over 100 tons of corn.

"We do not condone feeding deer and elk, that's why we use the clevated platforms," said Gallagher. "But we have a saying about turkoys: It's either a fed turkey or a dead turkey."

Another nice thing about the MWTHA is that every penny raised by the non-profit organization remains right here in the state. MWTHA raises money through a \$10 annual membership fee, donations, raffles, a turkey hunting workshop, a ban-

quat and the sale of habitat packages.

The seeds farmers receive are donated by Pheasants Forever, which also helps out by donating some corn to the program in the winter. Even program of the winter. Even and the through meeting receives are state or federal funding and no member of the Association receives a dime - only the satisfaction of knowing that the turkeys in northern Michigan. How some of the winter is also distinct the turkeys in northern Michigan. We spent \$13,000 last year in Area J slone, and we had a pretty mild winter," said Gallagher.

"We have between 66,000 and 65,000 turkeys in northern Michigan. That's a lot of birds. The thing that worries me is the coming winters. If we have a bad

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

CLASSES

FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club
will present Fly Fishing For the
Beginner on Saturday and Sunday, May 23, 24. Both day-long
sessions run 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. sessions run 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be held at the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Cost is \$80 per student. Call Rick Sak at (743) 464-3271 for more infor-mation and to register.

FLY.TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in
Rochester offers a variety of fly
tying classes for beginners and
advanced tyers. Call (248) 6500440 for more information or to
make a reservation for an
upcoming class.

upcoming class.

HUNTER EDUCATION
Wayne County Sportsmen's Club
will hold several huntor education classes in the upcoming
months at its clubhouse and
grounds in Romulus. These
classes will be taught by certified instructors. Students must
be present for both days of their
respective class. All equipment
will be provided. Classes will be
offered Aug. 29-30, Oct. 3-4, Oct.
17-18 and Nov. 7-8. Cost is
\$10.50 and includes lunch both
days. To pre-register call (313) days. To pre-register call (313) 532-0285.

4

CLUBS

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS

METRO-WEST STEILHEADERS
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
Dominic Liparote at (248) 4765027 for more information.
MICHICAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club
meets at 7 p.m. the first and
third Wednesdays of each month
at Livenia Clarenceville Junior
High School. Call (610) 478-1494
for more information.
FOUR SEASONS
The Four SCASONS

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

FISHING BUDDIES

Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. The meetings are open to all anglers. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

for more internations. CLINTON VALLEY BASS.
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking now members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.)
The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

more information.

Rass Association

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament hass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 676-2863 for more information

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.

SPRING STAR PARTY

Discover the magic of the spring skies and learn about spring con-stellations with members of the Nature Center staff and volun-teers from the Oakland Astrono-

my Club during this program, which begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Independence Oaks.

MAY 16, at Independence Oaks.
MICKIGAN'S ENDAMCERED
Review the current status of
some of Michigan's endangered
plants and animals during this
program, which begins at 1:30
p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Independence Oaks.

pendence Oaks.

FREE WOOD CHIPS

Free wood chips from the Oakland County Parks Christmas

tree recycling program, will be

available on Saturday, May 23,

at Orino Oaks at the Clarkaton

Road entrance. Individuals are

saked to provide their own shovels and to load the chips by

hand. No motorized equipment

is allowed and no commercial

haulers. Additional wood chip

dates are scheduled for June 27,

July 25, August 29, Sept. 26 and

Oct. 31.

AMAZING AMPHISIANE

AMAZING AMPHIBIANS

AMAZING AMPHIBIANS
Ages 7-11 will learn what makes
frogs, toads and amphibians special during this program, which
begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday,
May 30, at Independence Onks.

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, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

ALCOHOL EM.

Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

ALCOHOL RAN
An alcohol ban will be in effect
at some metroparks until the
middle of June. Times and dates
will be posted at each park.
CLEAN KENSINGTON
Volunteers are needed to help
give Kensington a good spring
cleaning beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 16.
WILDLIFE RADOR

urday, May 16.

Wilblife BADGE
Junior Girl Scouts can earn their
Wildlife badgo during this program, which will be offered Saturday, May 16, at Indian
Springs. Call ahead for a reservation at 1-800-477-3192.

SKY SEARCH SADGE
Junior Girl Scouts can earn their
Sky Search badge during this
program, which will be offered
Saturday, May 16, at Indian
Springs. Call ahead for a reservation at 1-800-477-3192.

PRE-SCHOOL POSIES
An easy craft project for children and their parents begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 16, at Kens-

PINE LOOP TRAIL

Bring your binocular and explore
the new Pine Loop trail during
this program, which begins at 2
p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Kens-

ington.
ADULT NIGHT WALK
Agea 18 and older can take a
two-mile hike through the woods
and meadows in search of
wildlife and wildflowers during
this program, which begins at 8
p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Stany
Creek.

POND IFE
Ages five and older will take acloser look at the fascinating life
found in a pend during this program, which begins of 1 p.m.
Sunday, May 17, at Indian
Springs. A similar program
begins at 1 p.m. at Kensington.
DISCOVER WILDTLOWERS
Learn about woodland wildflowers and then take a walk in
search of wildflowers during this
program, which begins at 3 p.m.
Sunday, May 17, at Kensington.
HORSING AROUND

Horsing Around
Staff from the farm Center will
demonstrate techniques used to
train draft horses during this
program, which begins at 3 p.m.
Sunday, May 17, at Kensington.



