

NRC requires longer wait for repeat elk hunters

Elk hunters who received a license to take a bull elk will now have to wait 10 years to apply again, under a new rule adopted recently by the state Natural Resources Commission. The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act authorizes the NRC to make orders related to the taking of game.

NRC chairman Keith Charters said the new ruling was a result of a DNR evaluation of repeat winners of elk licenses and recent findings of a state audit.

"The audit concluded that the drawing process used by the DNR is fair and unbiased, but auditors clearly illustrated that the 'luck of the draw' will result in a growing number of repeat winners just because of the growing number of past winners," Charters said.

In the past, successful Michigan elk permit applicants had to

wait one year before again applying for a permit. Under the new regulations hunters who receive an antlerless permit must still wait a year but hunters who receive a hunters choice permit will be eligible to apply for another Michigan elk license for 10 years.

In other related actions by the NRC, the Commission approved two elk hunts for this year. This will allow the DNR to continue the selective reduction of the elk herd in keeping with the objective to have between 800 and 900 elk in the winter herd. The first hunt this fall will be Sept. 12-20, and the second is slated for Dec. 8-14. The season limit will continue to be one elk per license.

Elk hunts in recent years have been successful in reducing the herd from an estimated 1,360 elk in the winter of 1992-93 to 1,075 in the winter of 1996-97. The

winter count for 1997-98 is still not out but is expected to be less than 1,000, which still allows the DNR to conduct both a September hunt and a December hunt.

The deadline to apply for an elk permit for either of the upcoming hunts is July 15.

Help out at Pocket Park

If you know how to fish and like working with children, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wants to reel you in this summer at the Michigan State Fair Aug. 26-Sept. 7. That's when volunteers are needed to help children learn to fish at the new DNR Pocket Park fishing pond at the State Fairgrounds in Detroit.

"We're especially interested in fishing clubs with members who would like to come down and work the pond as a group for a day or two," said Denise Mogos, DNR Information and Education

Division communications representative. "Individuals who would like to volunteer are also welcome to help."

Volunteers will work under the supervision of a DNR employee and may assist in a variety of duties ranging from helping untangle fishing lines to taking a fish off the hook. The pond, which will be stocked with hybrid bluegill, will have an 80-foot fishing platform where as many as 20 people can fish at one time. Volunteers are expected to work from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will receive free admission and parking.

Anyone interested in lending a hand for a very worthy cause can call the DNR at (734) 953-1639 or (734) 953-1628.

Help name falcon chicks

Three peregrine falcon chicks that hatched around Mother's Day in a nest at the Book Build-

ing in Detroit need names. The Michigan DNR, in keeping with tradition, has announced that children can once again this year name the birds.

Names which have some relevance to peregrines and their characteristics are preferred. Names do not have to be gender-based.

The word "peregrine" means wander, and these falcons migrate great distances each year. Peregrines are one of the most admired birds of prey as well as one of the top predators. An endangered bird, peregrines are powerful hunters and prey on other birds. When they dive, or "stoop," for prey they can reach speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.

Detroit is a popular nesting spot for peregrines since the Detroit River is a natural migratory corridor and the tall buildings in the city provide suitable

nesting habitat. Pop and Judy, the parents of the three chicks, have nested in Detroit for the past seven years.

Children ages 5 through 13 who wish to name the chicks can send their suggestions to: Peregrine Names, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 35980 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48152. Entries should include names for the chicks along with the child's name, address and telephone number.

Entries must be received by Monday, June 22.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314, send e-mail to bparker@oe.homecomm.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

ARCHERY

3D SHOOT

Oakland County Sportsman Club will hold a 30-target 3D shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, June 14, on its walk-through course in Clarkston. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

BOWHUNTER SHOOT

Detroit Archers will hold a 3D Bowhunter Shoot beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 20, on its walk-through course in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 for more information.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS

A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

CLASSES/CLINICS

INTERNATIONAL BOWHUNTERS

The International Bowhunters Clinic will be held June 19-21 at Alderson Archery in Grand Ledge. Call (517) 627-3251 for more information.

BOW HUNTERS RENDEZVOUS

The Michigan Bow Hunters Rendezvous will be held July 25-28 at the Springfield Oaks Fairgrounds in Davisburg.

FLY TYING

Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tiers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

CANOE DAY

Test drive one of 20 different Mad River canoes during this on-the-water clinic, which begins at 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, on Kent Lake at Kensington Metropark. The clinic is offered by REI in Northville. Call (248) 347-2100 for details.

BASICS OF GPS

Learn the basics of navigation and how the GPS receiver works during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 20, at REI in Northville. Call (248) 347-2100 for information.

HUNTER EDUCATION

Wayne County Sportsman's Club will hold several hunter 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 \$10.00 and includes lunch both days. To pre-register call (313) 941-9688.

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.

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 Kudel at (313) 691-0843 for more information.

FISHING BUDDYS

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

CLINTON VALLEY BASS

Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new 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.

BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at Gander Mountain in Taylor. Call (734) 678-2563 for information.

TOURNAMENTS

OAKLAND BASS MASTERS

Oakland Bass Masters will hold a two-man open tournament on Sunday, June 28, on Lake St. Clair. Registration is \$75 per boat and is limited to 100 boats. Call (248) 642-8254 for info.

SEASON/DATES

BASS

Bass season opens June 20 on Lake St. Clair, and the St. Clair and Detroit rivers. The season opened May 23 on all other waters.

BEAR

June 15 is the deadline to apply for a fall bear hunting permit.

DEER

August 15 is the deadline to apply for an antlerless deer permit.

ELK

July 15 is the deadline to apply for a September or a December elk permit.

COUNTY PARKS

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

FREE WOOD CHIPS

Free wood chips from the Oakland County Parks Christmas tree recycling program will be available on Saturday, June 27, at Orion Oaks at the Clarkston Road entrance. Individuals are asked 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 July 25, August 29, Sept. 26 and Oct. 31.

JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Ages 9-13 can discover nature's active night shift during this evening program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday at Independence Oaks.

TURTLE TOURS

Turtle secrets and facts will be discussed during this lakeshore tour, which begins at 10 a.m.

Saturday at Independence Oaks.

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 at the following numbers: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7766; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

1998 PERMITS

The 1998 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permits are \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call 1-800-477-PARKS for more information.

ALCOHOL BAN

An alcohol ban will be in effect at some Metroparks until the middle of June. Times and dates will be posted at each park.

SANDCASTLES

Ages 4-6 can have some fun in

the sand as they join a naturalist for a nature story, an activity and a snack during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Learn about the variety of late spring bloomers during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kensington.

STOPPING THE HOES

A chance for ages five and older to help with farm chores begins at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Kensington Farm Center.

ARACHNOMANIA

Learn about the beneficial side of spiders during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday at Kensington.

HOME SCHOOL ADVENTURE

Ages 4-7 will learn about animals that live in and around water during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 17, at Stony Creek.

BEES, BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS

Novice and experts alike are welcome to help the park naturalist inventory some of the plants and animals in the park during this program, which begins 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Stony Creek.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS

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.

SUMMER BIRD HIKE

Observe bird species while taking a walk through the park during this program, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday at Maybury.

DAIRY DAY

Learn about dairy products and how they are made during this hands-on demonstration, which begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at Maybury.

KIDS HIKE

Kids under age 12 and their families can take a hike in search of critters that hop, slither and crawl during this program, which begins at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 20, at Maybury.



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