

# Time to start scouting as archery season nears

## OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

The massive buck slowly raised his head and took a methodical look around the field before bending back to the ryo and continuing his evening feast. His large body is what first drew my attention, but from 150 yards away I could make out the outline of antlers in the fading daylight. Upon closer scrutiny with my binoculars, the enormity of the buck stood out. Eight long tines (not including the main beam) grew toward the sky and the rack spread three inches past each of his ears. In my estimation, he'd score well over 140 through the Boone & Crockett scoring system, maybe higher.

My adrenaline raced. Buck fever had set in and opening day of the Michigan archery season is still better than a month away. Now is the time to get out and do some serious scouting. Hunters who wait for opening day to start looking for food sources and patterning the deer in their area are wasting a month of valuable time. Get out in the woods, sit quietly and watch with your eyes. If you move, move slowly and quietly just as you would on a hunt. Check the oak trees in your area and see if any acorns are being produced. If so, find the trails leading to and from these areas and watch the action at daylight and dusk. Deer frequent fringes areas so watch these areas as well to see when and where the deer are coming from. Learn the habits and patterns of the deer in your

area now and set up your blind accordingly. If you do your homework now success should be a matter of making a good shot on opening day - 34 days and counting. **Going through changes** Deer hunters should be aware of several changes in store for them when the hunting seasons (archery - Oct. 1, firearms - Nov. 15) open in the coming months. Here is a brief overview of the major changes for the 1998 Michigan deer seasons. ■ It is now legal to hunt deer and bear from an elevated platform with a firearm during the designated firearms seasons. ■ Private land antlerless deer licenses are now valid on all private lands within a deer management unit with permission of the respective landowner. ■ Accrue for applying for an antlerless permit has been

reduced to five acres for southern Michigan deer management units. General leftover antlerless permits will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 25, while private land leftover antlerless permits will go on sale at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. Sixty three DMUs will have unlimited private land permits available throughout the season. ■ The second buck tag for the archery and the second buck tag for the firearms seasons have been eliminated. In place is a combination license, which allows a hunter to harvest two bucks total. The type of weapon used is up to the hunter. Several details on the combo licenses - including if the second buck must have four tines on one side like last year - are still being hammered out and will be decided at the upcoming meeting of the state Natural Resources Commission.

The Commission meets Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 9-10, in Lansing. Persons who wish to address the commission or persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Teresa Golden at (517) 373-2352. ■ The late archery season will close on January 3, the same date as the late firearms season for antlerless deer closes (Dec. 19-Jan. 3). **452 restrictions** The outbreak of Bovine tuberculosis in the free ranging white-tailed deer herd in northeastern Michigan has resulted in regulations changes in that area. DMU 452 covers all or parts of Alpena, Alpena, Montmorency, Oscoda and Presque Isle counties. Check the 1998 Michigan hunting guide for exact boundaries. There is also a TB buffer zone surrounding DMU 452 which

falls under the heading of the Bovine Tuberculosis management Area. Again check the 1998 Michigan Hunting Guide for exact boundaries. ■ There will be an early antlerless firearms season (Oct. 17-Oct. 26) on private land only in DMU 452. There will also be a late antlerless firearms season (Dec. 11-Jan. 3) in DMU 452, which will be open to private or public lands. These special seasons are not statewide and are limited to the boundaries of Deer Management Unit 452. ■ A baiting restriction, limiting the amount of bait to five gallons at one hunting site, will be enforced throughout the Bovine TB Management Area. These are some of the major changes for the upcoming seasons, but hunters should take a few minutes to look over the Michigan Hunting Guide before venturing into the field.

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

### CLINICS

**BACKPACKING** The School of Outdoor Leadership Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR) will hold a backpacking class on five consecutive Wednesdays beginning Sept. 2, in Farmington. An overnight trip to the Pinckney Recreation Area is planned as well as a longer trip to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Cost for the class is \$75 and students must be a member of SOLAR (\$30 membership fee). For more information call Carol McCreir at (810) 229-5232 or Cindy Felix at (734) 722-3994.

**TURKEY HUNTING** Jay's Sporting Goods of Clare, the Michigan DNR and the Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association will be conducting Michigan's first fall wild turkey hunting workshop beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at Jay's. Fall hunting techniques, calling, the use of decoys, laws, turkey biology and much more will be discussed by some of the state's most noted turkey experts.

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

**HUNTER EDUCATION** Wayne County Sportsmen's Club will hold 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 Oct. 3-4, Oct. 17-18 and Nov. 7-8. Cost is \$10.50 and includes lunch both days. Call (313) 532-0285 to pre-register.

**WINGSHOOTING SCHOOL** Hunters Ridge Hunt Club in Oxford will host the Fieldport Wingshooting School on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12-13. Master gunfitter and certified instructor Bryan Bilinski, who is credited with bringing sporting clays to the United States, will lead the school, which will cover all aspects of proficient shooting. Call (616) 933-0767 (daytime) or (248) 637-2446 (evenings) for more information.

### FESTIVALS

**POINTE MOUILLE WATERFOWL** The 12th annual Pointe Mouillee Waterfowl Festival, formerly known as the Michigan Duck Hunter's Tournament, will land at the Lake Erie Marsh in Brownstown Twp. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12-13. The event features the annual Midwest Duck Contest, one of the biggest events of its kind. There will also be wildlife art, taxidermy displays, an outdoor trading post stocked with hunting and fishing equipment and much more. The Monroe Sport-ing Collectibles Show will be held in conjunction with the festival on Friday, Sept. 11, at the Monroe Holiday Inn. Call (734) 379-9902 for information or call Pointe Mouillee at (734) 379-9992 on Mondays or Wednesdays.

### SEASON/DATES

**BEAR** Bear season opens Sept. 10 in

designated bear management units.

**ELK** The early elk hunt will run Sept. 12-20, by special permit in designated elk management units only. The late hunt will be held Dec. 8-14, also by special permit and designated elk management units only.

**GOOSE** The early Canada goose season will be Sept. 1-15 in the Lower Peninsula and Sept. 1-10 in the Upper Peninsula. (The counties of Huron, Tuscola and Saginaw will be closed for the early season.) The daily bag limit is five.

**GOOSE** Season opens Sept. 15.

**RABBIT/HARE** Season opens Sept. 15.

**SQUIRREL** Squirrel season opens Sept. 15.

**WATERFOWL** Hunters have until Aug. 28 to apply for a reserved hunt permit.

**WOODCOCK** Woodcock season opens Sept. 15.

### SHOWS

**OUTDOOR WEEKEND** The 12th annual Woods-N-Water News Outdoor Weekend will be held Friday-Sunday, Sept. 11-13, at the Lapeer County Fairgrounds in Imlay City. The show features non-stop seminars and clinics by outdoor experts including Charlie Linblade, Byron Ferguson, Rick Klein, Master Chief Miles Chelka, Jerry Chiappetta, Dave Richey, Tom Huggler, Richard Smith and Denny Gearhart among others. There will also be over 125 exhibitors, a puppy area to buy, sell and photograph puppies, a chili camp cook-off and more. Tickets are \$5 each and \$8 for a three-day pass. Show hours are 9-5 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. The fairgrounds are located on M-63, a half-mile north of I-69. Call (810) 724-0254 for more information.

### WILDLIFE CARVING

The Waterfowl Preservation & Decey Club of Michigan will hold the North American Wildlife Carving Show and Sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19-20, at the Holiday Inn in Livonia. The show features decoys, fish, flat art, gifts, vendors and more. Admission is \$4.

### 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, 1-800-477-7756; 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 1-800-47-PARKS for more information. **DON'T BUG ME** Children accompanied by a parent will learn about the sounds and lives of grasshoppers and crickets as they venture into the darkness with nets to capture and observe these six-legged critters during this program, which begins at 8 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

**ROSCO'S CAMPFIRE** Join Rosco the Clown for an evening of magic, jokes and balloon animals while roasting hot dogs around a campfire during this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Stony Creek.

**ECOLOGY BADGE** Junior Girl Scouts can complete all the requirements for their ecology badge during this program, which will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, at Indian Springs.

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