

# It's hunting season, but area woman focused on fishing

## OUTDOOR



On Nov. 12-13, just two days before the firearms deer opener, Bennett will make the trek to Missouri to compete in the Red Man Regional Championship on Tablerock Lake.

The top 30 finishers after six qualifying events in each of four Red Man divisional circuits meet in the regional where the winner walks away with a fully-equipped Chevy pick-up truck and a Ranger bass boat. The top

eight finishers at the regional tournament advance to the Red Man All-American.

"This is the first time I've ever qualified for a (Red Man) regional. That was one of my goals this year," said Bennett. "It will be a busy weekend with deer season starting and everything, but I'm excited about it."

"I'm just real happy I made it. There has never been a woman from Michigan that qualified for a regional, so that's pretty cool," she said.

Bennett qualified for the regional by placing 12th out of some 200 anglers competing in the Red Man Michigan Division. A two-time qualifier for the National Bass'n Gals Classic Star, Bennett is no stranger to tournaments and has even fished Tablerock Lake once before.

"I fished it once, but it was years ago in a national Bass'n Gals tournament. I don't remem-

ber much about it," she said. "I do remember it was cold and we had snow, but I finished in the money."

Bennett just missed finishing in the money on Sept. 24-25 in the Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation state fish-off on Lake St. Clair.

After struggling to catch three fish on the first day of the two-day tournament, Bennett dominated the field on day two and weighed a five-fish limit that tipped the scale at 19.98 pounds. She also had big bass for the day at 5.72 pounds and earned \$700 for that catch.

"The first day I ran all over that lake. I don't think I've ever gone that far. I used two tanks of gas to catch three fish," Bennett said. "But I came back with a bang on the second day. I didn't finish in the top eight, which would have qualified me for their regional, but I wasn't that disappointed after bringing in

that limit on the second day. That's the heaviest stringer I've ever weighed."

## Hunter success

Successful hunter reports are starting to trickle in. Remember, if you or a family member or friend has a successful hunt let me know and look for the results in upcoming editions of the Observer & Eccentric! Newspapers. Send in the name and hometown of the successful hunter as well as any pertinent details of the hunt. Also include a home phone number in case I need to call for additional details. Send information to the address or fax number listed at the bottom of this column.

\* Troy brothers Joshua and Joel Gallas proved to be modern day frontiersmen when they each brought down a black bear during Michigan's fall season. Trained and guided by their father, Randy Blaszyk, the boys

were hunting near Marquette. The biggest bear dressed out at nearly 350 pounds and the smaller of the two weighed approximately 150 pounds.

\* Lake Orion resident Bob Gritzinger killed the second buck of his hunting career on opening day of the archery season.

"A long-tined spike came in and I decided to pass on him," Gritzinger said. "Then a four-point came in behind him and I was about to shoot when I saw movement to the side, and here comes a 6-point. I was already at full-draw. He stopped and presented a shot so I took it."

\* Livonia's Pat Duggan shot a 6-point buck on opening day while hunting from a tree blind in Washtenaw County. Duggan said the buck came in alone at approximately 9 a.m.

County fishing contest winners  
Winners of the Oakland County Parks summer fishing contest were recently announced. Buhl

Lake at Addison Oaks and Crooked Lake at Independence Oaks were the sites for the contest, which ran Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Anglers registered their catch with park staff. The biggest "catches" were determined by multiplying the length of the fish by its weight. Winners received \$50 gift certificates.

Winners at Addison Oaks were: Lance Holder of Rochester Hills, largemouth bass (22 inches, 5 pounds, 2 ounces); Norm Reske of Roseville, northern pike (29 inches, 6 pounds); and Josh Bartley of Ypsilanti, bluegill (8 inches, 9 ounces). Winners at Independence Oaks were: Fred Munger of Clarkston, largemouth bass (19 inches, 6 pounds, 2 ounces); Ralph Cormier of Eastpointe, perch (11 inches, 8 ounces); and Connie Aten of Bloomfield, bluegill (9 inches, 6 ounces).

# Ladybird beetles beneficial insects

## NATURE



TIM NOWICKI

Last Sunday's warm temperatures enticed all the ladybugs, or ladybird beetles, to search for a place to hibernate.

A window above the deck door at the Lewis and Clark Nature Center near Clarkston, Michigan was covered with them. Outside they were flying everywhere and landing on people to rest before continuing their search for a place to spend the winter.

These little beetles do not hurt, sting or bite anyone they landed upon; they just startled people. Actually, ladybird beetles are completely harmless and are one of the most beneficial insects in Michigan.

I prefer to call them ladybird beetles because they are actually a beetle and not a bug.

According to entomologists, there is a completely separate group of insects that are called bugs.

The hard, smooth, shiny covering that is often colored orange, red, yellow, or even black, is a pair of wings that have been modified to form a hard protective covering found in all beetles.

Each species of ladybird beetle has a distinct color and spotting pattern. Specific names of some are: fifteen-spotted lady beetle, minispotted lady beetle, twice-spotted lady beetle and the red lady beetle.

Spots on the back do not determine how old it is. After spending the summer eating aphids on plants, ladybird beetles begin to search for a place to hibernate.

Homes can often be selected because they provide shelter. A small opening, a crack in the caulking, or a board that didn't

fit properly are just some of the avenues that may lead them into a house.

If you find that an aggregation of hundreds of ladybugs has taken place in your house, please think carefully before you react.

Killing them with a pesticide seems counter-productive for such a beneficial insect. Empty the shop-vac and then vacuum them into the canister so you can take them outside to a distant location.

Then, if you know where they were entering your house, you can plug that opening before more get inside.

Congregating in winter probably gets many individuals together for the purpose of mating in spring. When the weather warms both sexes are in the same location so they don't have to waste time finding each other.

Once mated, a female will search for some leaves that aphids on them. Clusters of 10-60 light yellow, or even orange eggs are laid within the aphid colony.

In just three-five days the eggs hatch. Larvae emerge from the eggs and promptly proceed to eat the aphids.

After a period of 2-3 weeks, the larva will pupate and within days emerge as an adult.

A larva can eat 400 medium sized aphids, an adult can eat as many as 5,000 aphids in its lifetime.

Multiply these numbers times the number of individuals in a winter cluster and you can see how they can be very effective in controlling plant pests.

In fact, the name "ladybug" is derived from "Beetle of Our Lady" and dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Back in the middle ages people prayed to Mary to save their crops, when the ladybird beetles showed up, they thought they were sent by Mary.

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ELECTION NOTICE  
Public Accuracy Test**

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Accuracy Test will be taken by the City of Farmington to test voting equipment for the November 2, 1999, City General Election. The test will be taken on Friday, October 22, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. at the Farmington City Hall, Council Chambers, 2500 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

PATSY K. CANTELLI, Clerk/Treasurer

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